ANNUAL REPORTS

BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

1977-8

BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.

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Dear Member,

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1977.

I have pleasure in presenting the 21st Annual Reports on the activities of our Association.

Membership is 411, composed of 125 Life Members, 226 Seniors and 60 Juniors, although taking into consideration the membership of affiliated Clubs the total will be several thousand.

Our Regional Representatives cover many counties throughout England, with limited representation in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and we have Overseas Representatives, members and correspondents in the U.S.A., Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Egypt, Syria, Australia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Holland, Belgium, India, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and the Channel Isles.

Reports from your respective Championship Hon. Secretaries and other Officers are attached and cover our main activities during the season. As usual I will endeavour to confine myself to report and comment on other matters which I hope will be of interest to you.

TROPHY WITH A DIFFERENCE. Your Pilot Life Saver Scheme Committee (Hon Secretary Carl Walker) have good reason to be well pleased with the long awaited 'Harry Moffatt Memorial Trophy' which, in effect, has been kindly donated by Dr. Bryan Finlay, formerly of Coventry, now in the U.S.A. The trophy is the replica of a rowing boat, complete with oars, clinker built, approximately 20" long, nicely mounted, a really splendid trophy which will no doubt be on show at the A.G.M. and Annual Dinner.

MARRIAGES. Hearty congratulations to Ken Lumb and Sheila, and to Charles Forsberg and Janet

BIRTHS. Hearty congratulations to Ron and Carol McDonald (nee Jeffs) on the arrival of Scott, and the writer has pleasure in recording the arrival to John & Marion Slater of Sarah Jane.

FIBRE GLASS ROW BOAT D.I.Y. Having previously constructed a two seater canvas and wood canoe, and a marine ply dinghy, it seemed reasonable that I should try to bring myself up to date and venture into the realms of glass fibre. Having acquired a mould for a three seater 11'-3" row/sail/outboard dinghy and 'run off' the first model, members will no doubt be viewing it with some interest when it takes the water next season. I might say that apart from its abilities as a [illegible] and conditions, but if anyone wishes to hire the mould, the hire charge is £10, £5 being returnable if the mould is returned undamaged. Full instructions are available and I estimate that a group of 5 or 6 persons working a full weekend could easily complete the vessel. Any additional woodwork, if required, can be fitted at leisure by one person in 5 or 6 hours. Total cost of materials approximately £80.

"CAPTAIN WEBB - 100 YEARS OF CHANNEL SWIMMING". Peter Haines, of 3, Helena Close, Hawkwell, Essex, tells me that he has been able to obtain several copies of this fascinating book and will be happy to pass them along to fellow members at a price well below the original figure. If you would like a copy please write direct to Peter.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS etc., - STUDY GROUP REPORT. The report is now printed and copy is attached. The Executive Committee will debate the report thoroughly during the next 12 months and bring their recommendations to the 1979 A.G.M. Having completed its task the Study Group (Hon. Secretary Michael Smith) has been congratulated and has disbanded. Any constructive suggestions should now be passed via the Assistant Hon. Secretary Mrs. Anne G.Smith, to the Executive Committee.

INAUGURAL WINDERMERE CHAMPIONSHIP. Members attending the 1977 Championship may recall that I briefly reviewed the officers & competitors who had completed a 21 year stint. I regret I omitted to name Eddie Robinson. Checking later I realised my lapse without anyone giving me a dig, and I am happy to record Eddie's 21 years with your Association and its imperfect Hon. General Secretary.

JKS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1978/9.
The following nominations are put forward by your Executive Committee:
PRESIDENT: GEOFFREY ODDIE.
PRESIDENT ELECT: MRS. MURIL TOFT.
Nominations are required for the appointment of B.L.D. CHAMPIONSHIP HON. SECRETARY, and MEMBERSHIP HON. SECRETARY. The office of VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP HON. SECRETARY is to be relinquished at the A.G.M., but it would be proper to indicate that the Executive are pleased to inform members that Mr. Ken Bailey of Altrincham has accepted nomination. This does not, of course, preclude members from making further nominations for this and indeed for any other office of the Association, with the exception of the President and President Elect.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1978.
Renewals of subscriptions should continue to be forwarded to Mrs. Marguerite Pike (Membership Hon. Secretary) 25, Holroase Close, St. John's, Worcester. (Tel. 0905 [illegible]27). £1 for Juniors under 16, £2 Seniors. £2 Club Affiliation. £30 Life Membership. Please note that the Information Bulletin and Annual Reports etc., are only sent to currently paid-up members, whose names and addresses are recorded by the Membership Hon. Secretary.

ESSEX LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.
Mrs. Maureen L.Goodwin (nee Eastman) now at 44, North Road, Great Clacton, Essex, brings news of - 9th July, Round the Pier Swim, a once only swim round Clacton Pier, in aid of the R.N.L.I. Forms from Maureen. This is the day after the Walton to Clacton swim, and as some swimmers will be staying overnight we hope they will support this very worthy cause.

CONCERNING THE QUALITY OF BATHING WATER.
I'm obliged to Roger Pars ns for sending me "The Official Journal of the European Communities No.L31/1 II (Acts whose publication is not obligatory) Council Directive of 8th December, 1975, concerning the quality of bathing water (76/160/EEC)." The first four paragraphs commence with "Having regard" The next seven paragraphs commence with "Whereas". I have read it through, several times and the only bit I can understand is under the heading of 'Parameters' where there is reference to 'Tarry residues and floating materials such as wood, plastic, bottles, containers of glass, plastic,rubber, or any other substance, waste or splinters. References to analysis and inspection via Secchi's disc, Winkler's method, Nessler's method Kjeldahl method etc., is beyond my present comprehension. By comparison, Slater's method is is simplicity itself, e.g. if it is below 55F it is too cold, if its above 80F it is too hot. If it too murky to see your elbow at right angles under water then it is too dirty, if it tastes of eau de cologne you are just short of Cap Gris Nez, if it tastes of carbolic you are coming into Shakespeare Beach, if the fish are lying belly up and you are being gently nudged by surface objects and there is a nauseating odour, get to hell out of it. A copy of the E.E.C. Council Directive will be available for inspection at the A.G.M.

DOVER TIDE TABLE.
Via Peter Payne, it arrives as regularly as the New Year. Peter used to kindly mark it up for me so that I could tell at a glance which was the tide on which I could commence my pipe dreams. He now leaves it to me to work out, and I do this quite happily each year, knowing full well that no one ever takes any notice of my personal theory of selecting the highest low and the lowest high. It hasn't helped since it changed from feet to metres either. I reckon Jack Kerrin and Albert Coward should set off Saturday night, Sunday morning, 27th/28th August, and make a bee line straight across.

ST. GERMANS TO ANCRE LAWN RIVER SWIM.
The revival by Harry Tenby of this popular river Championship, the only one of its kind in that area was greatly welcomed by local swimmers and by our members, details are given later in these reports. Harry has suggested that this could possibly be a B.L.D.S.A. Championship in future, and the Executive will be considering this at the next meeting. Proposed dates 17th June, 15th or 29th July, 12th Aug. 9th Sept. All Saturdays, but could be changed to the following Sunday if more convenient.

NEW LAKE VENUE IN SURREY.
Carol Pines has been busy corresponding with Councils and Clubs in the deep South where we certainly lack a suitable Championship venue, and hopes to have some concrete information in time for the A.G.M. A popular and well established member, Carol and father George can be assured of our fullest co-operation.

J.S.

WINDERMERE INTERNATIONAL - SELECTION OF G.B. SWIMMERS.
Val. Parsons asks me to add this note to her report - Any B.L.D.S.A. member wishing to be considered for selection to compete in the Windermere International must send their application in writing to the International Secretary before 31st March, as the Selection Committee will meet shortly afterwards to select competitors.

COMMANDER GERALD FORSBERG, O.B.E. ROYAL NAVY (Rtd.) M.M.I. In the last Annual Reports members may recall that we welcomed Gerry on his taking up residence in Morecambe, together of course with his good lady Joyce, daughter Vega and (when in residence) son Charles. As this is the Commanders SIXTY FIFTH year he has kindly agreed to contribute a few words on his"Old Age Pensioner Year". "Competed in Piclmere, Morecambe Cross Bay, Grimsby, A.S.A. Coniston, Bala,(Navy/ R.A.F.), and Trentham. In addition swam an extra 'solo' across Morecambe Bay to equal the greatest number of crossings (26 times) by any one person and was one of the C.S.A. Committee relay Team which swam from England to France. Penultimately piloted Chris. Carter to win Ullswater through a monsoon type deluge, and finally fell into Lake Bala when acting as official timekeeper. Can anyone get wetter in one season ? The B.L.D.S.A. came of age this summer. During that 21 years, swam in 61 B.L.D.S.A. Championships, 14 A.S.A. Championships and 70 Championships of affiliated clubs/associations. Plus a couple of dozen solos such as the Channel, Lough Neagh, double Windermere etc. Total 21 year mileage 11,000 goggled miles. Was a bit touched at this year's A.S.A. when Ken Keighley stood back for me to enter the dressing room first and asked 'Which cubicle is yours, Gerry ?' That's all folks."

Gerry also tells me that " Billy and I are amongst a group of 14 swimmers (7of each sex) of varying ages to be medically tested by the SUNDAY TIMES to see what makes us tick. I hope that they don't find that my clockwork has run down. Date 14th January - article in paper in due course. Most of the swimmers are selected from the Otter Masters entry list."

We don't know that it might be that keeps Gerry ticking over so easily and regularly, but we can guess with reasonable accuracy that a 27th crossing of MORECAMBE BAY will certainly be high on the list of his priorities for 1978. If I can find out beforehand when the crossing is to be made I think the B.L.D.S.A. should turn out in full force, but knowing Gerry, he will probably either slip quietly in one weekday, or else leave it until the Cross Bay Championship date.

B.L.D.S.A. BIATHLON ADVENTURE 1977. Run 2½ miles - swim 300 metres.
This information contributed by Dick Hatfield, of Middlesbro' (of course).
The idea started after a few beers at Windermere and as a result two teams men/women were entered for the Yorkshire Biathlon at Leeds. As a result of this the mens team qualified by coming 2nd (out of two) for the National Finals at Crystal Palace in December. The womens team did not qualify as there were more than two teams in their event, but Melanie Smith qualified as an individual and so did Ron Evans. We five then decided to go to Crystal Palace. We came 9th out of 10 and had a jolly good time. We met Mike Flaherty (Navy) who beat me by 11 points, and an old B.L.D.S.A. Langold Champion Peter Whiteside, a modern Pentathlon International who came in 4th competing for the R.A.F. Melanie Smith came 32nd out of 80 and won her heat in the swimming. Next year with some of the younger swimmers we might do even better.

Position.	Name.	Swim Time.	Run Time.	Points.
24	Ron Evans.	3m.33	15m.58.	1655.
30	Mick Flaherty.	3 43	15 58	1775.
32	Dick Hatfield.	3 56	15 27	1764
46	Hamish Winter.	4 03	18 02	1247
48	Bill Dutton.	4 00	18 42	1147
32	Mel. Smith.	2 32.(200m.)	6 30(1,500m)	1700

The other two lady competitors were Gina Clarke and Janet Waite. Ron & Mike were not (this year) in the B.L.D.S.... Team. We could hold B.L.D.S.A. Biathlon Trials and Masters Championships next year, a great way of keeping fit during the winter.

B.L.D.S.A. MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS. Will van Rysel has done more than anyone else in Great Britain to participate in and publicise the benefits of both sprinting and long distance swimming in the 'Masters'. Full details appear later in these reports, but the B.L.D.S.A. have given added impetus by planning a "sounding board" Masters Championship during the A.G.M. and Dinner weekend. We hope to have final details accompanying these reports. If all goes well this could be the start of a branch which will grow steadily into something really big nationally and internationally. My suggestion for 1978 - B.L.D.S.A. v. The Otters, at Matlock Bath open air pool, in November.

J.S.

REVIEW OF LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING IN THE R.A.F.

Peter Gravett, Hon. Sec. of the R.A.F. S.A. Long Distance Championships kindly forwarded his report on the 1977 activities. " 1977 sees the second full season that long distance swimming has been a recognised sport within the service. Apart from our own Championships a small number of us have competed in civilian events. It is hoped that now a firm interest has been shown, more swimmers will emerge into outside events. Although we are segregated by division of Service Associations, we have a close unofficial link with our good friends in the Royal Navy. Our season began in April when 3 members of the R.A.F. squad joined the Royal Navy L.S.A. cold water acclimatisation course at Deal. A distance of some 26 miles were swum during the week, led by Lieut. Peter Stevens. A fellow member of the course was Cmdr. Gerry Forsberg, who encouragement and experience was a lesson in itself.

A boost for the sport (within the service) was the selection of two R.A.F. S.A. swimmers for the G.B. Squad. Christine (Skippy) Stockey of R.A.F.Cranwell, was selected for the B.L.D.S.A. Squad for Blankenburg where she was placed 12th in the ladies breast stroke event. Christine was again selected for the Damme Brugge event along with Dave Cometson at R.A.F. St. Athen, both to swim in breast stroke events, they were placed 3rd and 10th respectively. The R.A.F. S.A.'s Long Distance Championships were held at Lake Bala on Sat. 3rd September. With water temp. 57F, light following wind, conditions were reasonable as 13 R.A.F. and 4 W.R.A.F. swimming in either breast stroke or free style events took to the water. Once again, by sheer coincidence, as in 1976, 3 of our nautical chums happened by chance to be progressing up the lake in the same direction at the exact same time. Between the two services a good natured rivalry has therefore grown, to this end Mr. Berrisford, a man with a sense of humour (and a son in the Navy Squad) has donate a trophy (whose exact title my blushes refuse to allow me to release). The trophy is presented to the squad with the best aggragate time for its first three swimmers times. By their obvious superior knowledge of the world's oceans, the other side won - again. Results and times of the first 3 R.A.F. and R.N. were as follows:

Royal Navy.		Royal Air Force.	
Whitley.	1.12.12.	Moses (W.R.A.F.)	1.21.15.
Stevens.	1.21.54.	Tetlow.	1.23.41.
Vosper.	1.24.14.	Cometson (D/S)	1.26.21.

Members of the service have also taken part in the Wickmere, Willen Lake, Malton to Clacton, Kings Lynn River swim events.

Provisional date for 1978 Bala Championships is 2nd September, at 1100 hours. It is hoped that the Army will compete with us next year to make the event a regular inter-Service competition. "

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES 1977.

Maximum attendance is 4. An 'A' following the number indicates an apology for absence, and a '?' indicates an absence without an apology being received. J.O'Hara 4. G.Oddie 3A. J.R.Slater 4. G.F.Smith 4. Mrs.M.Smith 4. Mr. K.Robinson 3A. Mr. T.Worrall 1AA. Mr.K.Lumb 4. Mr. E.Robinson 4. Mr. R.O.Christie (Torquay) AAA. Mrs.V.Parsons 2AA Mr.J.Ingham 3A. Mr. C.Carter 4. Mr. G.Owen 4. Mr.E.Long 2AA. Mr. C.Maltner 4. Mr.M.Ferguson 4. Mrs.A.G.Smith 4. Mrs.M.Hinchliffe 4. Mr.A.Humphriws 3A. Mrs.M.Pike 3A. Mr.P.Crowe 2A? Mr.A.Murphy 3A. Mrs.I.Oldman 4. Mrs.M.Toft 4. Mr.H.Smith 4. Mr.L.Read 3A. Mr.B.Dove 2AA. Mr.R.Parsons 3A. Mr.J.Alexander 3A. Mr.R.Chatfield 4. Mr.M.Seymour 3A. Mr.R.J.Baker 3A. Past Presidents Mr.P.Rising 1A? Mr.L.Craven 4. Mr.F.Oldman 4.

NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR SPORT, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION.
(Sponsored by the Sports Council and the University of Birmingham)
The University of Birmingham, P.O.Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.
Telephone 021-472 7410. Interesting correspondence from the Director G. Alan Bell, who tells me that research on our particular sport is being undertaken in Great Britain and abroad and that the National Documentation Centre publishes two Bulletins (1) Sports Documentation Monthly Bulletin (2) Monthly Selection of Recent Publications. Each Bulletin contains an index, photocopies of any particular item that takes your interest can be posted to you at 4p per sheet plus postage. Annual Subscription is £8 or £16 for both (1) and (2). Sample copies can be obtained from Alan Bell free of charge. No doubt an S.A.E. would be appreciated even so.

My sincere thanks to all officers and members who have given their support and assistance during the past season, particularly to our Assistant Hon. Secretary.

Yours sincerely,
John R.Slater.
Hon. General Secretary.

B.L.D.S.A. TORBAY CHAMPIONSHIP

After weeks of very cold weather and no sunshine, the morning of Saturday 2nd. July dawned with hot sun and clear blue skies. This hot sun and very cold sea temperature, around 53F, produced a thick sea fog, luckily clearing before the swim started. Unfortunately, two men withdrew minutes prior to the start, which was initiated by the Mayor of Torbay, Councillor Peck; this left 19 men and 4 women. Our Power Boat coverage was excellent, as we were assisted by a Cutter and crew from H.M.S. Devonshire, which was anchored off Torquay harbour. Swimmers not escorted by their personal rowboat had at least two canoes each.

Sea surface was fairly calm, but some rough choppy spots developed later in the day. The Turnboat was in a perfect position this year, and another good marker was a Freighter anchored about 1000 yards away from the turn. Unfortunately, the sea temperature after fourty minutes from the start began to claim its victims, and swimmers were helped out of the water in fairly rapid succession. The sea fog reappeared during the afternoon, and it was an eerie experience swimming in it, but the Power Boat escorts were in close attendance on the swimmers left in the water. Out of the 23 starters, only 9 men and 1 woman finished; luckily all appeared to be in good condition. A large crowd greeted all swimmers as they returned to Meadfoot Beach after their eight mile swim in very cold water.

After the swim, a Mayoral Reception and Presentation of Awards was held at the Torquay Town Hall, followed by a Disco Dance with Bar facilities which, however, was unfortunately poorly attended.

Results

1.	R. Sherburn	3.41.02.	1. C. Sifleet	4.57.12.
2.	J. Lloyd	4.08.50.	Retired: S.A. Walker, G. Clarke,	
3.	P.J. Larrad	4.10.40.	L. Westlake.	
4.	P.M. Stephens	4.14.00.		
5.	T. Espin	4.57.15.		
6.	R.O. Christie	5.02.25.		
7.	D.I. Jones	5.16.25.		
8.	J. Paley	5.52.09.		
9.	H. Tenby	6.51.45.		

Retired: K.J. Keighley, R.J. Baker, M. Dutton, C.W. Burnett, S.J. May, M.J. Flaherty, K. Bailey, J. Peers, A.E. Ayres, C.D. Green.

R.O. Christie, 16, Trumlands Road, Torquay, Devon.

B.L.D.S.A. LANGOLD LAKE CHAMPIONSHIP

I take much pleasure in presenting this, my first annual report on the Senior & Junior championships which were held on Sunday 31st. August.

The weather unfortunately was not very kind to us. It being dull, showery, with a cool east breeze and a water temperature of 61.5F. These conditions presented a rather formidable task to the five entrants who were newcomers to outdoor swimming. However, in spite of the weather we only had one retirement who was ably taken care of by a Firbeck Life Guard. Of the nineteen original entrants, only one was declared a non-swimmer on the day. The remainder, twelve boys and six girls lined up together and were soon on their way. We had an oval shaped course this year, with a start and finish in safe deep water. on completion of each circuit the swimmers passed in front of the timekeepers who were perched high up in the life guard look out post overlooking the finish line. This area was made out of bounds to all but swim officials which I felt allowed the swim to be run more efficiently.

The Founders Cup for Boys was won by Stephen S. Dockery of the Warrington Dolphins L.D.S.C. with almost 3 minutes to spare over the runner up Phillip W. Reed of the Aberavon L.D.S.C. The Mrs. Oldman Trophy for Girls was a comfortable win for newcomer Janet Waites of the Middlesboro A.S.C. who had almost seven minutes to spare over Wendy J. Shand of the Surrey Ladies A.S.C. who in turn just managed to scrape home 0.5 seconds in front of fast finishing Allison D. Hawkins of the Huddersfield A.S.C.

My sincere thanks to the following: Dennis Shreeve (Director of Amenities) -

AGS

permission to use the Lake, Jack Revill - for course lay out and use of Life Guard facilities, Cedric Webster - publicity, Henry Illiffe - supply of hot water and urn, Geof Cadie (President Elect) - starter and referee, Trevor Smith - recorder, Phillip Rising, Mr. F. Oldman and Mrs. Oldman - timekeepers, (Fred's fee for this duty was a free dip in the lake, which he duly took!), Mr. and Mrs. C. Walker - boat stewards, John O'Hara (President) - announcer supreme (full marks John for sticking out 80 minutes in Jack Revill's sweat box, Personally I still prefer you roving the pier with the loud hailer), Lewis Craven - programmes and liaison, Roy Phillips (Director of Manpower, Bassetlaw Council) - presentation of trophies, Firbeck Life Guards - manning the boats and patroling, Life Guard Cadets - selling programmes and making bovril, St. John's Ambulance Brigade - First Aid. My thanks also to the swimmers for coming, and to the parents for bringing them. Hope you enjoyed the championship as much as I did and I look forward to seeing you once again next year when, I hope, the weather will be kinder to us.

Results

1.	Stephen S. Dockery	34.11.	1.	Janet Waites	38.57.
2.	Phillip E. Reed	37.13.	2.	Wendy J. Shand	45.31.
3.	Simon J. Lee	37.48.	3.	Allison T. Hawkins	45.31.1.
4.	James M. Rann	38.06.	4.	Karen Hawkins	46.37.
5.	John D. Penhalagan	39.05.	5.	Joanne Turton	50.22.
6.	David A. Keetley	39.10.	6.	Christine Bradshaw	[illegible]
7.	Mark R. Bird	42.58.			
8.	Andrew P. Berner	47.04.			
9.	Anthony J. Rea	48.35.			
10.	Kenneth R. Jackson	61.41.			
11.	Mark G. Hinchliffe	77.00.			

Retired - Alan M. Robinson.
Non-swimmer - David T. Morgan.

Ken Robinson, 25, Pearwood Crescent, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 9DZ.
Tel: 0302 851172.

B.L.D.S.A. MORECAMBE CROSS BAY CHAMPIONSHIP

This year's Cross Bay swim had a Home Countries International flavour with each country being represented. At the finish, Scotland took the honours with the first Englishman being fifth. Sixteen men and nine women took to the water which was a cool 56F. The sky was overcast but with little wind. Each swimmer was accompanied by a canoe and the course was marshalled by five power boats. All the swimmers started together and a leading group soon forged ahead. In this group were the defending champions, Val Parsons, Bill Dutton, Ron Evans, Gina Clarke, Hamish Winter and John Baker.

Within the hour, Gina Clarke had retired and shortly afterwards, Ron Evans and Bill Dutton joined her on the rescue boats. This left Val a clear favourite to retain her trophy which she did in fine style, and left the men's championship as a decider between the Scots and the Welsh. The cold conditions were causing many of the girls to retire and at the finish, only three managed to complete the course. Behind the leading bunch, many private battles were taking place, Dick Skillen (Ireland) and Ian Reid (Scotland) were contesting third place, whilst Gerry (65 years and one day) Forsberg was content on equalling the record number of Bay crossings.

Harry Tenby was just happy to be swimming after travelling to Exmouth and Dundee without actually getting wet, and other new comers Colin Burnett, Chris Green and David Jones just pressed on towards the Morecambe Stone Jetty. Ken Bailey brought up the rear and had to look for enough water to swim in, but just made it before the Bay drained completely. Unfortunately, six girls didn't make it. I hope they all have another go. Personal thanks to Jack Brown and Dick Hatfield for sharing the burden, all canoeists and officials.

Results

1.	Hamish Winter	2.48.56.	1.	Val Parsons	2.57.07.
2.	John Baker	2.52.11.	2.	Suzanne Lodge	3.44.53.
3.	Ian Reid	2.59.36.	3.	Margaret Smith	3.47.42.

AGM.

4.	Richard Skillen	2.59.51.
5.	Peter Stephens	3.00.04.
6.	Alan Humphries	3.00.46.
7.	Kevin Ferguson	3.15.35.
8.	Colin Burnett	3.18.25.
9.	David Jones	3.23.23.
10.	Dennis Hicks	3.26.15.
11.	Commander Forsberg	3.30.34.
12.	Chris Green	3.56.20.
13.	Harry Tenby	3.57.29.
14.	Ken Bailey	4.52.26.

Chris Carter, 35, Birdwell Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington. Tel: Penketh 8698.

B.L.D.S.A. VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIP

A very good day, excellent conditions, just a light breeze, water temperature around 62F -- indeed one of the better weekends of our "patchy" summer!! Delighted to welcome our Hon. Treasurer, Trevor Smith, Dr. Leon Walkden and Godfrey Beaton, Denis Renshaw and Leslie Cassidy and from Essex came Peter Haines and Derrick Pearce to make up the influx of 7 new entrants this year.

The events started on time at 12.00 noon and as the competitors spread out the pattern of the eventual placings began to take shape. The contest became very keen with Denis Renshaw leading Dougie Graham, very closely followed by Jim Sharp and John Turnbull. However Dougie eventually pulled forward just ahead to become the new Men's Veterans Champion. A further tussle ensued between John Turnbull and Jim Sharp to finish with only 5 seconds to divide the 3rd. and 4th. places!! All the other competitors followed through in fairly close order, swimming very well to finish with quite good times - particularly the "new boys". John Busby was rather exhausted but bravely carried on once again to be awarded the "Eileen Butcher" Trophy for being the oldest competitor to complete the course at the age of 68.

In the Ladies Championship Willy van Rysel soon proved her marvellous abilities at her age and from the start went on ahead, swam very strongly, really enjoying the conditions and finished in good style to be the Ladies Champion - a really great effort. Her rivals pursued with great endeavour but did have difficulty with the sailing boats that were chasing around. With no retirements at all - a most excellent swim by all who took part.

Co. W.G. Crispin, the Chairman of the Coniston Parish Council attended and made the presentation of the Trophies and Certificates to the competitors. My sincere thanks go out to all the Officials, Boat Crews and all who assisted on the day - with special mention of our President, Mr. John O'Hara who did his usual 'racy' commentary to keep the spectators well informed, disclosing some of the 'hidden secrets' of many of those involved! And too - a tribute to our old friend Bob Clarke for the boats and all the many amenities he places at our disposal each year and makes the organisation so much easier.

Afraid that I must finish this report to say that after this - the 10th year - I now have great difficulty in finding the time to organise these events with all the preliminary work involved. Therefore most regrettably I have decided that I must now stand down and have asked the Executive to consider a new nomination for 1978 for the position as Hon. Secretary of the Veterans' Championships. Most grateful thanks to my Championship Committee and to all who have helped me in so many ways over the years to make these events so successful and which have now become an established feature of the B.L.D.S.A. Calendar.

Results

1.	D. Graham	1.41.12.	1.	Willy van Rysel	2.07.24.
2.	D. Renshaw	1.42.09.	2.	B. Condon	2.21.01.
3.	J. Turnbull	1.45.55.	3.	B. Sharples	3.20.00.
4.	J. Sharp	1.46.00.			
5.	G.L.J. Beaton	2.10.46.			
6.	A.E. Ayres	2.15.09.			

AGS.

7.	A. Williams	2.18.19.
8.	Dr. L. Walkden	2.24.48.
9.	D.W. Jukes	2.26.30.
10.	G.T. Smith	2.29.49.
11.	P. Haines	2.34.10.
12.	L. Cassidy	2.39.02.
13.	R. Walker	2.39.42.
14.	D. Pearce	2.43.34.
15.	K.N.G. Bailey	2.45.44.
16.	C. Walker	2.46.05.
17.	T.P. Bull	2.53.02.
18.	J. Ingham	2.53.53.
19.	J.H. Busby	3.07.02.

C.G. Forsberg did not swim.

Eddie Robinson, "Broughton", 25, Belmont Avenue, Otley, LS21 2DE., West Yorkshire. Tel: Otley 56650.

B.L.D.S.A. BALA CHAMPIONSHIP

This the eighteenth annual Bala Championships proved to be a little better (weather-wise) than last year. On the Saturday, the day of the senior swim, the weather was cold and windy but dry. The wind was blowing from the south-west, and this made the going very hard for the first leg of the swim, but on the return journey with the wind being behind them, this made things a little easier for the remaining swimmers. The water temperature was approx. 60F. This coupled with the strong wind caused quite a number of competitors to retire. Out of the 12 ladies and 25 gents who entered there were seven non-starter one lady and six gents, and retirements from the race, five of each.

On Monday the day of the Junior swim, the weather conditions were practically the same. With the wind blowing from the bottom-end of the lake, this proved to be very fortunate for the junior swimmers, and some very good times were recorded. Mike Davies set up a new record for the junior boys swim in the time of 1 hour 6 minutes 16 seconds breaking the previous record which he set up in 1975 by 2 minutes and 54 seconds.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody who helped me, the members of my committee, the Red Cross, Lake Warden, Bala Yacht Club, and anyone else who helped to make the swim a success,

Results

Seniors

1.	Ian J. Muir	2.57.43.
2.	Chris Carter	3.11.36.
3.	P.M. Stephens	3.23.46.
4.	Francis Allen	3.42.15.
5.	Mark Wright	3.42.58.
6.	K. Ferguson	4.00.28.
7.	C. Burnett	4.02.52.
8.	N. Ferguson	4.03.27.
9.	B.M. Rann	4.13.17.

Finished out of time:

Jeff Paley	5.00.16.
Trevor D. Symmons	5.13.37.
John Carter	5.17.16.

7 non-starters, 5 retirements.

1.	Linda C. Devereaux	3.01.22.
2.	Jane M. Luscombe	3.10.34.
3.	Patricia A. Dawson	3.56.56.

Finished out of time:

Susan A. Shand	5.02.31.

Seven competitors retired.

Juniors

1.	Mike Davies	1.06.16.
2.	Stephen Dockery	1.06.37.
3.	Simon J. Lee	1.19.28.
4.	James M. Rann	1.19.37.
5.	Phillip Reed	1.19.51.
6.	Graeme K. Lowe	1.35.07.
7.	Anthony J. Rea	1.46.24.
8.	Andrew Burtenshaw	1.50.22.
9.	Mark G. Hinchliffe	2.27.04.

3 retirements.

1.	Claire Allman	1.14.28.
2.	Christine E. Miles	1.30.20.
3.	Alison Simester	1.31.13.
4.	Deborah M. Banks	1.32.59.
5.	Karen Hawkins	1.34.06.
6.	Allison Hawkins	1.36.11.
7.	Wendy J. Shand	1.42.06.
8.	Lisa J. Burnett	1.51.10.

D.K. Lumb, 6, Union Street, Lindley, Huddersfield, W. Yorkshire.
AGS.

B.L.D.S.A. WINDERMERE CHAMPIONSHIP

Once again it gives me great pleasure to present this report on our premier Championship, and as [illegible] large entry, with 48 competitors entering the water at [illegible] (which I believe is a record entry for the ladies). [illegible] to 62 boats, which [illegible] Lakeside there was a little bit of confusion owing to the fact that some of the boats under tow had broken loose in the middle of the lake, and at this point I must congratulate the majority of the crew members who obeyed the call to pull their boats off shore to allow the other boats to come in. I do thank you all, and thus once again we were very fortunate to be able to get the swim under way fifteen minutes behind schedule.

We knew from the entry that we were in for a good race. With men like Bill Dutton (1976 Champion) and newcomer to the senior ranks, Robert Sherburn, Chris Carter, Ian Reid, James Winter, any of these men were quite capable of winning the title. In the ladies we had Dilys Beynon, Gina Clarke, Melanie J. Smith, and the two ladies from Jersey, Jane M. Luscombe and Linda C. Devereux, and once again, any of these ladies were quite capable of winning the ladies title.

As in previous reports, it would be quite impossible to mention every individual effort, it would make this report far too long, and to do so in words would fill a volume, but to all of you who did enter, I offer my sincere thanks.

Our congratulations must go first to the winner of the Ladies Championship, Miss Melanie J. Smith, our new Lady Champion, in a very good time of 5. 18. 23 - a young lady who has put a lot of hard work into her training this year, closely followed by Miss Alison Roberts, swimming into second place in a time of 5. 24. 09. Into third place swam Miss Jane M. Luscombe from the Jersey L.S.D. Club in a time of 5. 36. 21. The time factor between these young ladies shows the calibre of swimmers that are entering these days, roughly eighteen minutes between the first three: a really tremendous effort. Our congratulations must also go to Mrs. Margaret J. Smith for her splendid swim to gain the Ladies Breast Stroke Cup (well done Margaret!), to all the ladies who entered, and I do extend my heartiest congratulations to those who were unsuccessful, I say, please come again, you never know, it may be your turn next year.

In the mens race, we knew we were in for a battle. Could Billy Dutton repeat his 1976 form? But this was not to be, with Billy retiring very early in the race. The pressure of work at home, taking its toll, leaving the race wide open for men like Chris Carter, newcomer Robert Sherburn, Ian Reid, and James Winter to fight it out; but also into the picture crept Bruce Beckett to challenge Robert Sherburn - these two men were to swim neck and neck until the last ¼ mile with Bruce finally coming home swimming into first place in a time of 4. 54. 43. just two minutes ahead of Robert, so close behind in a time of 4. 56. 40. (This was to gain him his just reward of being presented with the best first attempt Trophy.) Into third place swam Ian Reid after a gallant try and looking very fit in a time of 5. 25. 36. Our heartiest congratulations to you all for a good swim and a nail-biting afternoon and the enjoyment we receive from seeing you swim. Our congratulations also go Trevor James on gaining the Breaststroke Trophy, again, a very just reward for a very fine effort - Well done Trevor!

To all the men who entered, both successful and unsuccessful, I say thank you for coming along. As I have said before, I cannot mention everyone, but please come again, and as in every Windermere swim, you never can tell!

In organising any swim, there are a lot of people behind the scenes, and again to mention everyone would be impossible. But my thanks must go to: The South Lakeland District Council, The Cumbria Constabulary, The St. John's A.B. (Ambleside Division), The Lakeside Services, The Lads of the 208 L.A.V. (Liverpool), to the many officials of the B.L.D.S.A., Timekeepers, Raffle organisers, Programme sellers, crewmen and lifesavers, and swimmers, and the many others who help to make the format of any major event - I thank you all most sincerely.

L A D I E S

RESULTS

1.	Melanie J. Smith	5.18.23.
2.	Alison Roberts	5.24.09.
3.	Jane M. Luscombe	5.36.21.
4.	Linda C. Devereux	6.12.13.
5.	Patricia Dawson	6.38.04.
6.	Christine A. Sifleet	7.36.24.
7.	Suzanne Lodge	7.44.15.
8.	Phyllis Sullivan	8.55.52.
9.	Margaret J. Smith	9.00.00.

RETIRED:
Dilys Beynon
Gina Clarke
Lillian B. Bell
Karen E. Jones
Susan Johnson
Jean Wilkin

GENTLEMEN

RESULTS

1.	Bruce Beckett	4.54.43.
2.	Robert Sherburn	4.56.40.
3.	Ian Reid	5.25.36.
4.	James Winter	5.31.06.
5.	Chris Carter	5.34.39.
6.	Richard Skillen	6.12.56.
7.	Peter J. Larrad	6.21.24.
8.	Douglas Graham	6.22.17.
9.	Francis Allen	6.36.02.
10.	Tony Espin	6.36.23.
11.	Mark Wright	6.49.24.
12.	James Burton	6.49.46.
13.	Kevin Ferguson	7.04.22.
14.	Etienne Van Audenaerde	7.09.19.
15.	John A. Heapy	7.18.54.
16.	Maurice Ferguson	7.40.59.
17.	Trevor James	7.47.01.
18.	Reginald C Christie	8.35.12.
19.	Jeffrey Paley	8.51.59.
(David Jones finished out of time)		9.03.41.

RETIRED:

Denis C. Hicks
Rex H. Tedd
T. D. Symmonds
Stephen Bedford
Terence J. Wood
Mike Sawdon
Arthur E. Ayres
Cedric Webster
Bill Dutton
Robert R. Welch
Vincent Barter
Martin Richards
John Carter

John O'Hara, 21, Woodhouse Grove, Fartown, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD2 1AS.

Telephone Huddersfield 20986.

B.L.D.S.A. TRENTHAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Once again it is my pleasure to present the report on the annual Trentham Swim, which was held on the 11th. September 1977. On the Saturday, the weather was not at all helpful with very strong winds and driving rains. Indded conditions were so bad at one point that it was feared that the swim would have to be abandoned altogether. However Sunday turned out to be better but still cold and windy. The water was very cold with the temperature between 52F and 54F and the cold wind blowing down the length of the lake.

The start was prompt and the five ladies were the first away, Lesley Brown was soon in the lead, with Melanie Smith and Gina Clarke not far behind. Then the twenty-nine men set out and Robert Sherburn went straight into the lead, whether due to enthusiasm or extreme cold we are not sure. Whatever the reason he kept up the standard and finished first overall. There were some extremely good times and some amazing finishes, and all [illegible] sincere congratulations are due to Kevin Ferguson who swam the [illegible] distance using the Butterfly stroke.

At this point in the report I feel that a note of anger must creep in. With each swimmer's correspondence I send out two gate tickets hoping to get boat crews, but this has not worked. This year I had to help out, which, although I do not mind, did mean that I had to leave a number of tasks undone. I fully realise that the boats are not in very good condition, but if it means the difference between a life saved and a life lost, then the condition does not surely matter. I am not sure what would have happened if the canoeists and Ralph and Margaret had not helped, and I feel so angry about the whole thing, that I must seriously consider holding the swim at all in the future if the situation does not improve and more boat crews turn out.

To conclude this report, thanks must go to several people: the Red Cross as always and most sincere thanks to the canoeists and Ralph and Margaret who,

AGS.

as stated earlier, were very generous with their time and help. Thanks also to Mr. Reg Jones and Tr[illegible] Ltd, without whom the swim could not take place. Thanks to anyone else who helped in any way to make it the success it was. Finally a [illegible] and very special thanks to Percy, Johnny, Bobby and [illegible] Sub-committee: [illegible] Douglas Procter.

Results

1.	Robert Sherburn	1,0[illegible]	1.	Lesley K. Brown	1.04.59.
2.	Marcus Hall	1.0[illegible]	2.	Melanie Smith	1.08.39.
3.	Douglas Flynn	1.08.03.	3.	Gina Clark	1.08.52.
4.	Richard Hatfield	1.[illegible]	4.	Karen E. Jones	1.20.31.
5.	James Winter	1.[illegible]	5.	Jean Wilkin	1.36.32.
6.	Gregory Plummer	1.10.2[illegible]			
7.	Eric Milligan	1.13.0[illegible]			
8.	Chris Carter	1.14.2[illegible]			
9.	Peter Stephens	1.21.01.			
10.	Alan Humphreys	1.21.33.			
11.	Kenneth [illegible]ley	1.21.[illegible]			
12.	Douglas Graham	1.23.[illegible]			
13.	Dennis Renshaw	1.[illegible]			
14.	Maurice Parkinson	1.[illegible]			
15.	John A. Henry	1.[illegible]			
16.	Roy Milligan	1.[illegible]			
17.	Gerald Fotheringham	1.[illegible]			
18.	[illegible]	[illegible]			
19.	John Peers	1.39.46.			
20.	Kevin Ferguson	1.[illegible]			
21.	T. [illegible]	1.[illegible]			
22.	Stephen Bedford	1.[illegible]			
23.	Cedric Webster	1.41.05.			
24.	Christopher Green	1.[illegible]			
25.	David Fell	1.51.10.			
26.	Peter Haines	1.[illegible]			
27.	Eddie Cassidy	2.[illegible]			
28.	Percy Bull	2.[illegible]			
29.	Kenneth Robinson	2.[illegible]			

Referee: John D. Summers.
Non-starters: Mr. Patrick Thomas, Paul Kochanek, Robert Thompson, Martin Smith, Peter Wield, George Craig.

Date of 1978 championship: 10th September, subject to confirmation.

T. Morrall, 30, Prospect Mount, Fell Lane, Keighley, W. Yorkshire. Tel: Keighley 607078.

A.S.A. LONG DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mr. Ernest Long, the secretary for this swim, was unable to attend this year due to a clash with a holiday arrangement previously made. As his stand in on the day of the event I have pleasure, on his behalf, in presenting this report.

The entries for the men were up this year to 32, but the ladies dropped 2 to 8 entries. With 8 non-starters in the men and one in the ladies, the field set off with 24 men and 7 ladies. 16 men finished within the stipulated time of 1½ hours for the course, 5 finished out of time and 3 retired. 6 ladies finished within time, with one out of time and no retirements. The day was dull but dry, reasonably warm with water temperature around 58F. There was a good attendance of followers, and once again good support from our members, to run the swim, with a friendly group of officials from the North Midlands A.S.A. to officiate.

I have to thank all those who attended to help, the A.S.A. officials, John O'Hara our President for doing the announcing and presenting the certificates, the people who manned the boats, Mr. Pook in particular as Boat Marshall, Doug Procter, Tommy Morrall, and Percy Bull for setting out the course again this year, Mrs. Procter and Mrs. Morrall for acting as Stewards, the British

AGS.

Red Cross and Trentham Gardens Personel. Above all I thank Ernest Long for doing all the pre-swim donkey work before his holiday so that everything ran smoothly on the day.

Results

1.	Robert Sherburn	2.09.12.	1.	Gina Clarke	2.21.58.
2.	Robert Davis	2.11.42.	2.	Susan L. Johnson	2.36.30.
3.	Stephen Dockery	2.13.04.	3.	Sally Anne Walker	2.36.56.
4.	Daryll M. Baker	2.20.17.	4.	Dilys Beynon	2.56.40.
5.	Terry Lyons	2.23.17.	5.	Karen E. Jones	2.59.07.
6.	Nicholas T. Perry	2.27.42.	6.	Gay Haigh	3.09.30.
7.	Richard Hatfield	2.28.40.	Out of time: Janet Renshaw.		
8.	Marc A. Rowley	2.33.23.			
9.	Bill Dutton	2.35.09.			
10.	Jeffrey Lloyd	2.39.45.			
11.	Eric Millican	2.40.30.			
12.	Jeffrey Tanner	2.49.51.			
13.	Peter Stephens	2.52. 56.			
14.	Peter M. Goodman	3.03.42.			
15.	Kenneth Keighley	3.03.43.			
16.	Kevin Ferguson	3.05.48.			

Out of time: Maurice Ferguson, T.D. Symons, C. Gerald Forsberg, John Heapy, Paul Rushworth.
Retired: Anthony J. Rea, Kevin Ronicle, Robert Keating.

G.T. Smith, on behalf of Ernest Long, 39, Blakehill Terrace, Undercliffe, Bradford 2, W. Yorkshire. Tel: Bradford 636339 (Home), Bradford 72699 (Office).

B.L.D.S.A. INDIVIDUAL SWIMS 1977.

First my apologies to those swimmers who did not receive their 1976 certificates in a reasonable time i.e. within twelve months of applying for recognition. The circumstances were beyond my control, as they say, and once a delay occurs it takes a lot of catching up.

I am still getting forms inadequately filled in. This year's winner was a name only, no address or even club. Please fill in every relevant space and give the name of the swim as well as the start and finish points. Also enclose a map of the course showing direction swum and where north lies in the case of inaugural swims.

Good luck to all attempts in 1978.

Bala Two Way 6 miles			
Maurice Ferguson	7.8.77.	3.49.00.	
Trevor Donald Symmons	27.8.77.	5.13.37.	
John Carter	27.8.77.	5.17.16.	
Brian Kember	27.8.77.	6.42.05.	
Derick W. Dukes	28.8.76.	5.02.00.	
Aberavon-Swansea 5 miles			
Robert John Baker	22.5.77.	2.38.00.	Record
Aberavon-Swansea Two Way 10 miles			
Robert John Baker	24.6.77.	5.17.10.	Record
Coniston 5½ miles			
Stephen Bedford	9.7.77.	3.27.00.	
John Peers	10.7.77.	4.30.00.	
John Carter	10.8.77.	3.17.30.	
Graeme Lowe	1.9.77.	2.55.00.	
Gina Clarke	15.8.76.	2.38.00.	Now Ratified
Coniston Two Way 11 miles			
Stephen Bedford	11.7.77.	8.20.00.	
Ullswater 7½ miles			
John Carter	8.8.77.	5.15.00.	
Windermere 10½ miles			
Christopher F. Carter	3.7.77.	4.56.26.	
Bryan Finlay	13.8.77.	6.17.52.	
Stephen Bedford	14.8.77.	9.03.00.	

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Vincent Gorman	20.8.77.	9.34.00.	
James Mitton Rann	23.8.77.	5.15.41.	
David I. Jones	3.9.77.	9.03.00.	
Gina Clarke	24.7.76.	6.00.08.	Now Ratified
Michael Wetherly	28.7.76.	7.55.00.	Now Ratified.
Grange-Morecambe 10 miles			
Karen Edwina Jones	14.8.77.	2.56.00.	
Morecambe-Grange 10 miles			
Donald M. Stewart	18.7.76.	3.35.00.	Now Ratified
Aberavon-Swansea-Mumbles 9½ miles			
Alison Roberts	20.8.77.	3.33.00.	Record
Newstone (Dartmouth)-Meadfoot (Torquay) 10½ miles			
Christine Anne Sifleet	13.9.75.	4.45.00.	
Eddystone Lighthouse- Leander Steps (Plymouth) 14 miles			
Christine Anne Sifleet	9.8.77.	10.01.30.	Record
Weymouth-Lulworth Cove Two Way 21 miles			
Christine Anne Sifleet	3.8.76.	13.00.00.	Now Ratified
Isle Of Wight 60 miles			
Kevin Murphy	22.9.71.	26.51.00.	Inaugural Record
Michael P. Read	26.8.76.	24.36.25.	Record
Loch Ness			
Kevin Murphy	14.7.76.	10.30.00.	Record Now Ratified
Downham Market-Kings Lynn 9 miles			
Margaret J. Smith	24.7.77.	6.41.22.	Inaugural Breast-stroke Record
Bristol Channel			
David I. Jones	21.8.77.	13.01.00.	Gents. Record.
Ireland-Scotland			
Edward Keenan	11.8.73.	13.27.00.	

Maurice Ferguson, (Hon. Recorder), 16, Elmwood Road, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4NB. Tel: Northwich (0606) 75298.

B.L.D.S.A. PILOT LIFE SAVING REPORT 1977

Once again this year has been a very quiet one where new Pilot Life Savers are concerned, indeed no one has taken and completed the full qualifications. It is also a disappointment to me that I have had very little response to my request of last year when I asked that all would be Pilot Life Savers, who have only one part of a test to be completed i.e. submitting maps, or forwarding a written certification that they have done the necessary rowing with a swimmer, have failed to do so.

I have therefore on file a number of partly completed applications, which date back a number of years, some even to 1970. As I mentioned in my report of last year, I am unable to retain these forms "ad infinitum" and it is my proposal to destroy all forms which are more than three years old. If any person whose original form has been destroyed wishes to become a Pilot Life Saver, then they will have to contact me and a new form will have to be completed.

We have now had one complete swimming season since the Harry Moffatt memorial forms were made available. As with all thinga new, these forms could have been worded differently, and they will in fact be amended from next year. There will also have to be a closing date set for applications to reach me, in order that the committee can decide from the batch of forms who has given the most meritorious service to Pilot Life Saving in the past season. As time goes on Pilot Life Savers will realise that this award will not necessarily be made to the person who has rowed the most miles. Indeed I would like to point out that the section of the form that refers to "officials" does in fact mean that whilst a Pilot Life Saver is doing his job when rowing, it is just as much his job to act as a time-keeper or take a powerboat out and organise the swim if called upon to do so. Whilst on the same subject there may be a Pilot Life Saver who, like myself, would like to enter an occasional swim as a competitor. It may be argued that by competing in a swim occasionally he is demonstrating his ability to cope with cold water conditions and in doing so making himself a better Pilot Life Saver, and more able to effect a rescue should the need arise. It may also be said that he cannot give his services whilst being a competitor. This does not mean however

that a person who enters a swim in a particular year will do better or worse than someone who does not enter a swim merely that these are possible guidelines for the committee to follow when making their selection.

There have been some changes of address on the Pilot Life Saving list and these will be amended before the next list goes to print. I will close my report by thanking all Pilot Life Savers who have attended swims this year, helping to make them a success.

Carl Walker, 55, West Avenue, Honley, Huddersfield, HD7 2HE, West Yorkshire. Tel: Huddersfield 664684.

B.L.D.S.A. PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Once again I have to thank the stalwart band of helpers involved in publicity work, with a special word of thanks to Edith Woodall, Bridget Hopkinson and Eileen Butcher who have taken over at swims I have been unable to attend. The Association owes a sincere thank you to Randall Northam who has helped us a great deal this year in the widening out of our publicity.

With the increasing printing costs many swim secretaries this year did not use standard entry forms for their swim, thus making it impossible for me to carry out my normal activities in respect of publicity. Would all swim secretaries, not only B.L.D.S.A.'s appointees, please complete and return the form attached to the Annual Report, regarding their swim, by the A.G.M.

SWIMMERS - do you want your local newspaper informed of your achievements? If so, turn to the back of the report and complete and return the form headed CALLING ALL SWIMMERS. If this form is not completed and returned in advance of the start of the season (i.e. one month before the Morecambe Cross Bay Championship Date) I shall be unable to include you in local paper after-swim publicity. These alterations are necessary owing to the changing nature of the swims, the larger entries and difficulties of swim secretaries in dispatching their entry forms to me far enough in advance of their swim. This is your Association- it is growing and to obtain more publicity each and everyone of us must co-operate to make sure information is accurate and available.

At the time of writing, sponsorship for the Windermere International has not been forthcoming. As a side effort I am endeavouring to secure the donation of prizes so that every entrant in the event will go home with something. If any member can suggest a contact for a donation, or in fact cares to make a donation themselves, will they please contact me. Also any suggestions as to companys who might be approached to advertise in our programme will also be welcomed. I have already contacted about 80 companies with resulting advertising to fill 2¾ pages, so again, suggestions will be welcomed.

Happy swimming, organising and administrating in 1978.

Margaret J. Smith, Press Relations Officer, 9, Cromwell View, Caistor, Lincs. LN7 6VH. Tel: Caistor (0472) 851076.

BRADFORD & DISTRICT LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CLUB

It gives pleasure yet again to report a very successful swimming season for our club. There were no records broken this year in our Junior Championships, but [illegible] a new record swimmer, Claire Atkinson (10) and Stephen Bottomley (10) [illegible] for Claire [illegible] Championship and Derwentwater Junior Championships. Andrea Metcalfe came 2nd in the Derwentwater Championship and was presented with the 'Eric Atkinson Memorial Trophy' for the first Bradford swimmer home.

On a 'very wet' Ullswater Championship eight swimmers completed the course, Chris Carter one of the four invited swimmers set a new record of 3hrs. 5 min. 31 secs., and Melonie Smith winning the Ladies event in a new All Comers record time of 3hrs. 1 min. 3 secs. Douglas Graham won the Club Championship

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in 3hrs. 38 mins. 55 secs. The 'First Attempt Trophy' was presented to Ewart Greenwood.

Our 2/Way Windermere Championship was yet again a real challenge for all concerned, eight entered the water and three completed the course. With a water temperature of 62 and air temperature 54 it made conditions not ideal. Suzanne Lodge completed her 3rd. successful swim in 16hrs. 4min. 20 secs. to win the Ladies Championship, and Michael Read attaining yet again 1st. position in the Men's in 12Hrs. 37min. 55secs., with Peter Stephens 2nd. in 13hrs. 26min. 50secs. On all our Championships this year we had the Cardinal Hinsley Lifeguard Club in attendance, and we are indeed grateful for their assistance which proved invaluable, particularly with the shortage of crews and Pilot Life-savers.

Jack Kerwin unfortunately was not able to make his attempt on the Channel this year owing to an injury. We sincerely hope that '1978' will be 'your' year Jack to fulfill your ambition - The World Record for the Oldest Channel Swimmer.

Congratulations are in order to Mr. Geoff Oddie on his being elected President for D.L.D.S.A. 1978. 'Merit Trophy' winners for 1976 were Seniors, Margaret Smith ... Juniors, Andrea Metcalfe. Who will win this year??? Our Annual Dinner Dance was yet again an enormous success thanks to Marie, who always manages to excell herself with the arrangements and excellent organisation on the day.

1977 has been a jubilant and most enjoyable year, my sincere thanks to the Committee for all their help and assistance. My congratulations to all members on their endeavours, and success in 1978.

Senior Championship	Ullswater
Douglas Graham	3.38.55.
Jeff Paley	4.59.04.
Invited Swimmers:	
Chris Carter	3.05.31. (Record)
Michael Read	3.10.52.
Francis Allen	3.39.00.

12 Entries, 4 retired: J. Renshaw, K. Keighley, E. Greenwood, P. Rushworth.

7½ Miles	Water Temp. 61
Melonie Smith	3.01.03. (All Comers Record)
Suzanne Lodge	4.08.06.
Dilys Beynon	3.31.04.

Two/Way Windermere Championship	
Michael Read	[illegible]
Peter Stephens	[illegible]

10 Entries, 2 non-starters: J. Winter.
5 retired: Dilys Beynon, Jeff Paley, Peter Larrad, Ian Reid, V. Barter.

21 Miles	Water Temp. 62
Suzanne Lodge	16.04.[illegible]

River Wharfe 'Open' Mile Championship	
1. Stephen Dockery	21.59.
2. Dean Johnstone	24.00.
3. David Keetley	24.18.
4. Duncan Crossland	24.40.
5. Andrew Dexter	28.47.
6. Andrew Tindale	30.03.
7. Martin Scott	[illegible]
8. Kenneth Dawson	31.05.
9. Ian Scriven	33.31.
10. Richard Summersgill	35.06.
11. John T. Carter	36.48.
12. Kenneth Jackson	38.35.
13. Simon Cape	[illegible]
14. Mark Hinchliffe	[illegible]
15. Antony O'Donoghue	[illegible]

30 Entries.

Water Temp. 63.	
1. Claire Allman	23.44.
2. Jean Littlefair	24.02.
3. Janet Waites	26.15.
4. Andrea Metcalfe	28.03.
5. Julie Cameron	29.01.
6. Lorraine Dale	[illegible]
7. Jane Keetley	[illegible]
8. Allison Hawkins	30.30.
9. Karen Hawkins	31.17.
10. Ruth Keetley	31.35.
11. Margaret Gill	34.06.
12. Catherine Tinkler	35.20.
13. Beverley Hughes	35.30.
14. Belinda Smith	38.27.
15. Paula Kelly	45.04.

Derwentwater Junior 'Open' Championship	
1. Stephen Dockery	55.26.2.
2. Dean Johnstone	1.04.10.
3. John T. Carter	1.41.45.
4. Kenneth Jackson	1.49.15.

14 Entries, 2 non-starters: P. Keeting, P. Kelly.

2¼ Miles	Water Temp. 60.
1. Claire Allman	1.01.21.
2. Andrea Metcalfe	1.13.26.
3. Allison Hawkins	[illegible]
4. Karen Hawkins	[illegible]

AGS.

4 retired: M. Hinchliffe, A. Robinson, D. Keetley, J. Waites.

Members Individual Swims

Margaret Smith

Downham Market to Kings Lynn Breaststroke Record	9 Miles	Inaugural Swim	6.41.22.

Jack Kerwin

Coniston	5¼ Miles	3.03.00.
Coniston 2/Way	10½ Miles	7.11.00.
" "	" "	7.46.00.
Ullswater 2/Way	15 Miles	10.35.00.
" "	" "	11.59.00.

Dorothy M. Connell, 9, Bentfield Cottages, Clayton, Bradford, W. Yorkshire. BD14 6DJ. Tel: Bradford 814169.

SURREY LADIES SWIMMING CLUB LONG DISTANCE REPORT

Not a very good year weather wise, but plenty of enthusiasm from our long distance swimmers. At Pickmere, our first competition, it was very cold. In the Junior, Lesley Read was 4th, Alison Simester 5th and sister Diane had to retire with cramp. In the Senior. Carol Pines was 6th, Susan Shand was 3rd in the Breaststroke and Jill Piner also retired with cramp. June 2nd I had my first look at Morecambe Bay with Carol. The water temperature was 52F and was too cold for some swimmers, including Carol.

We had a few outings to the Solent this year. Alison's Ryde-to-Southsea was only 30 seconds outside the Junior record, a very good effort. Lesley's Ryde-to-Southsea was a rough one but nevertheless she was only 2 minutes outside the record. Carol's Ryde-to-Southsea was just 5 minutes over the Senior record. We had a good outing at the Solent Swimming Club's Championships, the weather was fine and warm. It was nice to see some of our Northern based lads swimming. Here again Carol gained 2nd place. The Southsea Pier-to-Pier, only 1½ miles long, but against a very strong tide gave our girls a hard time. Carol was 3rd, Alison 6th, Diane and Lesley got to the Pier and could not finish the last 100 yards.

Our Junior girls, Lesley, Alison and Diane, went to Sandwell Valley in July and came away with the Team Trophy after a really good bit of team swimming. Later Lesley came 4th in the Waterloo Lake Swim. Wendy Shand had a good swim at Langold, despite a painful boil under her arm. She swam doggedly around the course to finish 3rd, beating the 3rd girl by 0.5 of a second.

Rough seas at the Walton-to-Clacton swim upset a few swimmers this year including Carol, who despite this, gained 2nd place. On the Isle of Wight the Sandown-to-Shanklin race was swum on a miserable day, raining and chilly. Sisters Jill and Carol Pines swam stroke for stroke and finished 3rd and 4th respectively. At Lake Bala we had a damp and dismal welcome. In the Senior, Jill and Carol had a hard swim but Jill retired after 1 mile and Carol after 5, both with cramp. Susan Shand contested the Senior Breaststroke Championship and although completing the course in very unfavourable conditions, she was disqualified for being 2 minutes over the 5 hour time limit. A situation which caused quite a lot of arguement, In the Junior event Alison and Wendy gained 3rd and 7th places respectively. The last race of the season was a revival of an old swim at Kings Lynn. It was 4½ miles down the River Ouse from St. Germans to Kings Lynn. With a late start, the swimmers only just completed the course before it became too dark. Carol came in 2nd.

All the girls who represented Surrey Ladies Swimming Club in our many varied long distance swims, are eagerly looking forward to next year's races, so it would seem they are made of the right material for long distance swimmers. Our thanks to all members and friends for the help and encouragement received at our swims.

A.G. Pines, 5, Canbury Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

AGS.

WARRINGTON DOLPHINS LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977

Once again our members have succeeded in keeping the club to the forefront in distance swimming with 18 wins, 6 seconds, 13 thirds and 9 records. All however cannot be winners and full credit to those of our members who help form the backbone of our sport and were in evidence at most championships, many improving on their personal best times and mileages.

Stephen Dockery and Claire Allman were dominant in the junior events. Stephen won River Wharfe, Morecambe I/S, Langold, Derwentwater and Cross Windermere, took 2 seconds and a great third place in the ASA 5 mile. Claire won River Wharfe, Waterloo, Derwentwater and Bala Lake. She was third in Pickmere and must now be looking towards bigger things next season.

Chris Carter as expected led the mileages for the season with 86½ miles including wins in Ullswater and Grimsby Dock with accompanying records, one 2nd and three 3rd places. He was unfortunate in sustaining an injury which prevented his entering the two way Windermere event which he could well have won.

Maurice and Kevin Ferguson had superb seasons with 50¾ and 51¾ miles respectively. Both improved on personal bests and Kevin completed the 3 mile Trentham event on butterfly to take the record for this stroke. Gina Clarke, 33miles total, has now joined the winners by taking the ASA 5, St Germaine - Kings Lynne, and Swansea - Abersavon Championships with inaugural records in the latter two. Gina also achcived two second and two third places.

Lady swimmers Pat Dawson, Dilys Beynon and Margaret Smith maintained good form. Amongst their achievements were Pats Grimsby Dock win with record, Dilys's second in Ulleswater and of course Margaret's many breast stroke firsts.

Our President John Alexander Forsook his swimming this season for long distance running,but as ever gave invaluable service in administration and boat crewing. To compensate for Johns absence however we were pleased to see Alan Humphries "getting wet" again with a creditable 31½ miles in good times including 2 thirds.

In his first full season with the club, Chris Green totalled 41½ miles and first place in the Warwickshire Handicap. Ken Bailey 31 miles, was forced to cut short his season through injury when approaching his "peak" whilst John Kenny 28½ miles took the back stroke record for Conniston and recently joined member Trevor Symmons totalled 25miles. John Peers had a good start in distance swimming and will I am sure improve next year. Arthur Williams, Lillian Brooks Bell, Bill Dutton and Bob Keating kept ticking over with 16, 12, 11 and 8½ miles respectively.

Kevin Murphy swam the Channel twice, 21 miles from Capri to Naples and accompanied by sharks Sidney Harbour.

Junior Anthony Rea has demonstrated his outdoor swimming strength and I am sure will be looking for more distance next year.

Notably in the year of the largest ever entry in our Pickmere Championships The Dolphins took the team trophy through Gina Clarke, Bill Dutton and Chris Carter.

Our annual dinner was held at our usual Pickmere venue, guests being John O'Hara (President BLDSA), Percy Bull (Chairman Warwickshire LDSA) and Dr Deakin together with their respective ladies. For the first time in the club's history, Life Membership was bestowed on Mr C.Shallcross and Mrs E.I.Anderson in recognition of their outstanding service in the furtherance of Long Distance Swimming.

Finally I extend sincere thanks to the Pickmere Boating Co., the management and staff of the Warrington Baths Department and all who have helped or served the club in any capacity during the last year.

Thank you - Russ Holbrook (Hon.Secretary)

6, Bromley Close, Fearnhead, Warrington, WA2 0AS.

Telephone:- Padgate 811037.

13th PICKMERE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thunder, lightning, rain and sun combined with a record entry of 132 and a record number of starters (125) made this a day to remember. My thanks to all the officials and helpers, in particular, the boat crews who stayed on the lake in atrocious conditions, and without whom these championships could not be run. A water temperature of 57F caused a total of thirty seven retirements, whom the club Doctor and the British Red Cross looked after admirably. My congratulations to all who finished and my sympathy to all who were forced to retire. See you again next year! The 1978 championships are on June the 10th.

AGS.

Team Award - Fastest Three Swimmers from 1 Club

1st.	Warrington Dolphins	3.54.14.
2nd.	Radcliffe S.C.	3.57.57.
3rd.	Royal Navy	4.06.09.
4th.	B.L.D.S.A.	4.32.26.
5th.	Keighley	4.53.45.
6th.	Bradford	5.30.15.
7th.	Warwickshire L.D.S.C.	7.02.42.

Maurice Ferguson, 16, Elmwood Road, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire. Tel: 75298.

GRIMSBY & CLEETHORPES A.S.A. WATER RATS

Reviving our name from many years ago we staged our first 4 mile dock championship in Alexandra Dock, Grimsby on 26th June. Full of enthusiasm we arrived early to open up the pavilion and to bale out the boats waiting to be launched and to pray the rain would stop but as the starting time drew nearer we knew our boatcrews, officials and spectators would be as wet as the swimmers. Twenty three swimmers (20 men and 3 women) were started by our gussts the Mayors of Grimsby and Cleethorpes who declined to join us in the water.

The ladies started shortly after the men so I was privileged to see several of the leading male swimmers go through the Bridge, not in front of it, as instructed, and run out of water - get to their feet and run. I shall treasure that memory of Gerry Forsberg grounded!! Nest year we plan an 8 lap obstacle race, course planned with care, several rings, hoops and bricks to conquer, not to mention a bridge! Seriously, sorry folks, better markings next year.

A great battle soon developed between Chris Carter, Pete Stephens and Alan Humphries. Further back in the race Gerry Forsberg was chasing Jim Sharp, aiming for his longest distance ever, Suzanne Lodge was trailing Maurice Ferguson and only just crept past him to finish ahead. Jeff Paley (The Huddersfield Submarine) and yours truely swam breaststroke for breaststroke until the last turn when I just managed to edge ahead. It was great fun with Dave Powell, Roger and Leslie Smith running a mobile snack bar to the boat crews and the weather eventually fairing up for the tailenders. To those who retired, come again next year.

Results

1.	Chris Carter	1.39.03.	1.	Pat Dawson	2.00.00.
2.	Peter Stephens	1.41.05.	2.	Suzanne Lodge	2.
3.	Alan Humphries	1.44. 2.	3.	Margaret Smith	3.
4.	Eric Millican	1.47.05.		(1st. Local)	
5.	Kevin Ferguson	1.50.09.			
6.	Tony Espin	1.57.09. (1st. Local)			
7.	Mike Sawdon	2.04.07. (2nd. Local)			
8.	Maurice Ferguson	2.08.06.			
9.	Denis Hicks	2.11.05. (3rd. Local)			
10.	Jim Sharpe	2.14.02.			
11.	Gerry Forsberg	2.16.09. (Veterans Prize)			
12.	Steve Bedford	2.25.00.			
13.	Pete Winchester	2.26.00. (4th. Local - Surprise Prize)			
14.	Jeff Paley	2.28.06. (Breaststroke Prize)			
15.	David Fell	2.33.03.			
16.	Harry Tenby	2.39.00.			
17.	Ken Bailey	2.49.08. (Anchor for last finisher)			

Retired: John Pringle, Dave Marsh, Ted Parnham (Fish Hook for a trier)

The B.L.D.S.A. Team won the Alderman Barratt Team Trophy with Suzanne Lodge, Eric Millican and Jeff Paley. Remember the team must represent both sexes and two strokes - much more fun. Club badges (fully washable) are available to all those who completed the course. Price 35p. each which must be accompanied by an S.A.E. Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to the Grimsby and Cleethorpes A.S.A. please.

Encouraged by our open Championship, Ron Creese revived the Local Half Mile and instituted a Ladies Half Mile race on 3rd. August.

AGS

1.	Errol Garland	10min. 58.3 sec.	1.	Pauline Playle	15.20.04.
2.	Tim Ord	12min. 57.05sec	2.	Margaret Smith	16.22.05.
3.	Eddie Bark	14min. 51.00sec	3.	Lynda Holmes	23.27.09.
4.	Denis Hicks				
5.	Ted Parnham				
6.	Des Holmes				
7.	Graham Smith (Yes The Graham Smith)				
8.	Dave Marsh				

Later in the season a half mile Veterans Race was a great success in the Dock.

1.	Ted Parnham	18.22.06.
2.	Ron Creese	19.25.00.
3.	Dave Marsh	20.27.00.
4.	Jim Blandford	21.59.00.

The Ticket Race held in late September was a great ¼ mile chase round the Dolphins for Cinema Tickets presented by Mr. 'Focus' Parnham.

Individual successes this season have been:

Denis Hicks	Spurn to Grimsby (7½ miles)	4hours 32 mins.
Pete Winchester	Spurn to Cleethorpes (6 miles)	2.34.00.
Tony Espin	Spurn to Cleethorpes (6 miles)	2.34.00.
Eddie Bark	Spurn to Cleethorpes (6 miles)	2.38.00.
Margaret Smith	Downham Market to Kings Lynn (9 miles)	6.41.22. (All comers Record)
	Bala Lake (3¼ miles)	2.11.40.

The Water Rats have been at Pickmere, Morecambe, the International Trials, Torbay, Copeland Island to Donaghadee, Lough Neagh, Windermere and Kings Lynn with successes for Howard Dickson, Des Holmes and Frank Black in addition to swimmers already named. See Championship reports for details. Our thanks go to Frank Garland, Norman Solari, Ron Creese and many of our friends for all the help they have rendered, helping to make this a wonderful season for all concerned. We are now looking forward to our next race - 10 a.m. on 25.12.77.
Next year's Championship date: 25th June, 4 mile and 2 mile Seniors.

Margaret J. Smith, Windermere, 9, Cromwell View, Caistor, Lincs, LN7 6VH.

WARWICKSHIRE LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Our membership has not increased in recent years, but despite old age and injury affecting most of us, we are still represented at most of the swims. We train at two venues, the pit, and Swan Pool, West Bromwich. Due to our scattered membership we often train alone, and meet at swims. To restore our image, we unleashed Robert Sherburn aged 16 years. It was no surprise to us that he won several events, including Torbay in cold conditions, and a 2nd place at Windermere. He also represented B.L.D.S.A. abroad. Now big enough to withstand the cold, he could do even better in 1978. In addition, we have some more 'secret weapons' being kept under wraps until next year. Speedy acquisitions that will finally dispel the Warwicks. image.

Early season, we held our 3 mile handicap. A limited entry, by invitation. Dave coped with all attempts to fix the handicaps, but could not prevent Chris Green of Warrington taking the trophy. B.L.D.S.A. Pres. John O'Hara acting as judge, lured Percy to 2nd place. Roy Ainsworth, please note, Percy did not start the day before. Past Presidents are expected to enter the swim. Date for 1978: 21st or 28th May.

The annual Coniston event attracted a large entry, with the usual problems of boats and crews. Arthur Ayres(Swim sec.) reported a good swim, won by R. Sherburn. Some entrants were entitled to a refund. Due to boat difficulties, we are grateful for assistance. In 1978, we may have to restrict entries to the order of receipt of fully completed forms, unless a boat is supplied by the swimmer, when a refund will be made.

Older B.L.D.S.A. members will remember Dr. Bryan Finlay. He visited us from Canada. Assisted by his former colleagues he completed an individual

AGS.

Windermere, and helped at the Veterans. Big Peter Fergus, former W.L.D.S.A. member, and Channel swimmer was spotted at Bala. A group of us attended the inaugural Solent Club Championships, at Gosport. An enjoyable short swim, dodging the boats. Francis Allen, in between running his business, moving house, and holidaying abroad completed Windermere, and the tough Rumbles to Porthcawl. Dave also visited South Wales. The Swansea Bay area must be unique in having the potential to provide an almost unlimited variety of swims, given the expertise, pilotage and facilities. Tycoon Derick Jukes, our Hon. Sec., had a quiet year, due to injury and work, but renewed his rivalry with Ken Bailey. Arthur Ayres was a member of the Veteran's relay team at the Channel. Old Arthur still plodding away is sufficiently motivated by a morsel of food hanging from the boat. Although Coventry is a thriving centre for that other sort of swimming, we are unable to attract any recruits. Perhaps we shall see some new faces at our Boxing Day Swim. Will Roy Ainsworth please note further - Dave's back trouble was caused by reasons not fit for publication. Some of our members may be moving house soon. New addresses will be available when known.

It was another enjoyable year and we look forward to 1978, when we will see all our friends on the swim circuit.

David Fell, 139, Lavendar Ave., Coventry, CV6 1DJ.

W.L.D.S.A. CONISTON SWIM

We received 27 Men entries and 9 Ladies. It turned out a very nice day with water temperature 58F. The lake was a bit rough but no-one gave up. 22 Men completed the course, Thomas was out of time but we granted him a certificate and badge. All 9 Ladies completed the course.

1.	R. Sherburn	2.01.31.	1.	Melanie Smith	2.13.05.
2.	R. Evans	2.03.23.	2.	Gina Clarke	2.16.48.
3.	G. Admans	2.23.24.	3.	Val Parsons	2.17.25.
4.	J. Lloyd	2.27.25.	4.	Susan Johnson	2.33.10.
5.	C. Carter	2.27.25.	5.	Janet Renshaw	3.02.00.
6.	E. Millican	2.29.31.	6.	Pat Dawson	3.06.30.
7.	P. Stephens	2.35.55.	7.	Jean Wilkins	3.22.49.
8.	A. Humphries	2.44.40.	8.	Karen Caisley	3.27.25.
9.	B. Keating	2.45.00.	9.	Lilian Brooks Bell	3.56.30.
10.	D. Graham	2.50.17.			
11.	K. Ferguson	2.51.10.			
12.	K. Keighley	2.59.46.			
13.	N. Ferguson	3.11.10.			
14.	Rex Todd	3.12.00.			
15.	P. Rushworth	3.17.17.			
16.	Gerald Forsberg	3.24.00.			
17.	J. Heapy	3.28.31.	(Breaststroke)		
18.	Arthur Williams	3.52.07.			
19.	C. Green	4.17.06.			
20.	Ken Bailey	4.22.37.			
21.	K. Robinson	4.35.55.			
22.	Dr. P. Thomas	5.40.00.			

Next Year's Date: 15th July 1978.

Arthur Ayres, 109, Overslade Crescent, Coundon, Coventry.

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TORBAY LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CLUB

The membership for the Torbay Long Distance Swimming Club has not greatly increased during the past year. As we are all aware, Long Distance Swimming is a rather selective sport compared with the highly competitive swim training used by the average Swimming Club. However, we pull together, and the following is a report on the year's activities.

On November last, a Jumble Sale was held in Paignton, but much hard work over the weeks, and on the actual day brought very poor results, and it was

decided that another form of fund raising would have to be used. The Club's Annual Dinner was held at the Harbour Lights Restaurant on the 12th February 1977, and was voted a great success. Our friends from Coventry travelled down for this function, as it was held on a Saturday, and a presentation was made to Christine Sifleet on her praiseworthy achievement of swimming the English Channel.

1977 has been a year for exceptionally cold water, and the Exmouth Fairway Buoy Swim, held 5th June, had to be cancelled due to extremely bad weather conditions, the first time in the many years of organising, that this was necessary. However, entrants from our Club - Len Payner, Harry Truscott, Mike Soper, and Owen Christie, were able to carry forward their entries to the Starcross Swim, a distance of approximately 2 miles, held 29th July. Three out of the four men completed the course, and duly received certificates. It was suggested that the Torbay Club makes this swim an added date in its diary, as apart from us, the Exmouth Club appears to be the only other club interested in sea swimming.

Our Club Swim, organised for 26th June, had, unfortunately to be cancelled due to the event of Power-Boat racing from Paignton Harbour, and on the advice of the Harbour Master. It transpired, however, that the times would not after all, have coincided with ours, and we could have carried on, which was extremely frustrating, though the water temperature was rather low. Better luck next year!

Two of our members competed in the B.L.D.S.A. Torbay Championship - Christine Sifleet, who won the Ladies event, as the only competitor to finish the course, and Owen Christie, who incidentally was making a come-back this year after his shoulder injury, which prevented him swimming competitively last year. Owen has taken on the Secretaryship of this Swim, making the first ever Secretary to organise and compete in the Championship. Other Club members were oarsmen/oarswomen, Boat-crew, etc., and helped in many other ways. The shield for the boat-crew accompanying the last Lady swimmer, was awarded to Brian Hill and Roy Hoare. This is the first time that this event has been completely organised in Torbay, and involved much hard work, and everyone agreed that without the help of the Torbay Club, this event could not take place.

On August 9th, a veterans Relay Team of men all over the age of Fifty, and selected from various parts of the country, swam the English Channel, from England to France in a time of 12½ hours, a no mean feat for that age group. Swimming in the team as No. 3 man, was Owen Christie, who had also hoped to make a solo Channel attempt whilst in Dover, but due to his Pilot having a heart attack that week, all hope had to be abandoned until next year. That same week, Christine broke a record at Plymouth, by being the first woman to conquer the 14 miles from Eddystone Lighthouse to Plymouth Hoe, in a time of 10 hours 1 min. 30 sec. - an extremely tough swim; well done Chris! Club Members, Joan Dobson and Brian Hill did a good job as trainer and feeder. Next year, the double Channel is awaiting Christine, so good luck with the training.

On August 18th, several Club members travelled to Cornwall, to compete in the Fowey River Swim, a distance of 1 mile for the Gents, and ½ mile for the Ladies. Susan Davies, Harry Truscott, Simon Truscott, Syd Davies, and Brian Hill all completed the course. Christine Sifleet and Owen Christie competed in the B.L.D.S.A. Windermere Championship in unusually cold water and windy conditions. Despite the fact that many swimmers were forced to retire, both our swimmers completed the course.

The long-awaited and hard earned Pilot Life Saver Badges at last arrived for Joan Dobson, and Brian Hill. Next season, severalcof our Club members hope to make a one-way Bay crossing; pending better water and weather conditions. The Annual Dinner has been arranged for Saturday 18th February 1978, Harbour Lights Restaurant. Once again, I would like to express, on behalf of our Club, sincere thanks to Joan and her Mother, for the use of their house as our Headquarters.

Muriel Christie, 16, Trumlands Road, Torquay.

AGS.

WALES

ABERAVON L.D.S.S.

I have pleasure in presenting the first annual report on the activities of our section.

MUMBLES TO ABERAVON 30th JULY 1977, 7 Miles, Temp. 63F.

The conditions were good with a calm sea. The event was organised by Aberavon sub-committee, Councillor C. Jenkins, Mr. D. Landeg, Mr. D. Phillips, and Mr. J. Baker. Pilot of the day was Mr. John Lewis.

RESULTS	MEN		LADIES	
1. J. Baker	2.31.00 (Rec.)	1. A. Roberts	2.37.00 (Rec.)
2. S. May	3.00.00	2. D. Beynon	2.52.00
3. D. Jones	3.36.00	3. C. Evans	3.08.00

Retired: H. Fellows, R. Jones, L. Reed

SWANSEA PIER TO ABERAVON PIER 13th AUGUST 1977. 5 Miles, Temp. 65F.

This swim was organised by John Baker with the help of Aberavon Swimming Club. The swim will now be an annual event. The swim started at Swansea Pier, wade 100 yards, wave flag and off they went, the men first, girls two minutes after. Ron Evans took the lead right from the start for the men, Alison Roberts and Gina Clark were fighting it out between them for the girls event. In the end Gina came home first for the girls, Alison second.

RESULTS	MEN	LADIES	
1. R. Evans	2.07.14 (Rec.)	1. G. Clark	2.24.16 (Rec.)
2. P. Stephens	2.42.00	2. A. Roberts	2.[illegible]
3. H. Fellows	2.51.55	3. D. Beynon	2.[illegible]
4. M. Ferguson	3.[illegible]	4. C. Evans	2.[illegible]
5. D. Jones	3.[illegible]	5. P. Dawson	3.16.45
6. M. Ferguson	3.18.43		
7. T. D. Symmons	3.23.33		
8. D. Evans	3.37.18		
9. G. Fell	3.38.11		

Note: All swimmers who started - finished

Records:	The first man home; Aldermens record	2.07.14
	The first lady home; Womans record	2.24.16
First lady club swimmer home	A. Roberts	2.33.53
First man club swimmer home	H. Fellows	2.51.55

The swimmers and myself would like to thank the men in the boats; Mr. Ken Meeds, Mr. Robert Harris, Pilot Boat Mr. Sid Davis and friends. Mr. Tony Rees of N.C.R.T.C. Mr. Harry Worth for the use of the facilities at the Afan Lido, and all canoeists. Mr. Jeff David pilot of the swim, Mr. Richard Landeg Race Referee, time-keepers, ST. John Ambulance, and most of all our Welsh President and Lady Mr. and Mrs. Sam Osborne. Without this voluntary help, the swim could not take place. I thank everyone concerned from all the swimmers and especially my wife who had to put up with me throughout the organisation of this swim. Also Mr. Geffrey Budworth who came down from his holidays to give us a hand. Thank you.

INDIVIDUAL SWIMS 1977		TIMES	MILES
J. Baker	Aberavon Pier to Swansea Pier	2.39.00	5
D. Jones	Aberavon Pier to Swansea Pier	3.10.00	5
P. Crawford	Swansea Pier to Aberavon Pier	2.30.46	5
R. Jones	Swansea Pier to Aberavon Pier	2.50.04	5
Mrs. J. Donavon	Swansea Pier to Aberavon Pier	3.29.08	5
J. Baker	Aberavon - Swansea - Aberavon	5.17.00	11
Miss A. Roberts	Aberavon - Swansea - Mumbles	3.33.00	9½
J. Baker	Mumbles - Swansea - Aberavon	3.42.08	9½

		TIMES	MILES
A Roberts	Mumbles Pier - Aberavon (Ladies)	2.35.00	7 (Rec.)
J. Baker	Mumbles Pier - Aberavon (Mens)	2.28.06	7 (Rec.)
J. Baker	Aberavon - Swansea - Mumbles	4.10.00	9½
D. Jones	Bristol Channel (Full report from Mr. Peter Tyrell)		

To finish my report I would like to say congratulations to Mike Davies (Swansea Otters) who set a new record for Junior Boys in Bala Lake Championships. Time 1.06.00.

Alison Roberts for taking second place at Lake Windermere. 5hrs. 22 min. Well done!

David Jones who became the first Welshman to swim the Bristol Channel and taking a new mens record. Well done!

(I know that other swimmers will get their names mentioned in the other Annual Reports.)

Finally my thanks to all who, over the years have helped us to establish Long Distance Swimming in Wales.

All the best for 1978.

1978 SWANSEA PIER - ABERAVON PIER
5 miles (Seniors only) Sun. 2nd July.

John Baker (Welsh Liaison Officer B.L.D.S.A.,)
18, Greig Close, Sandfields Est., Aberavon, Port Talbot.

SOUTH WALES COAST

A busy season in this region which has three, five, seven, fourteen and nineteen mile swims. Congratulations to Alison Roberts and David Jones on their Windermere successes and also to the junior swimmers who did so well in national events. Good luck to David Jones in his future attempt of the English Channel.

Saturday July 16th 1977 - Mumbles Head to Coney Beach Porthcawl. Average temperature 63F, wind force 4-5, sea rough. 14 miles.

1. Peter Larrad 5.31.
2. Francis Allen 5.55.
3. David Jones 6.14.

Owen Christie: Non-starter.
For information on this championship apply to John Baker, 18, Greig Close, Port Talbot, Glamorgan. See his report for Mumbles Head to Aberavon and Swansea Pier to Aberavon swims.

Tuesday August 23rd 1977 - Bristol Channel: North Devon to Coney Beach, Porthcawl. Wind force 2-3; temperature 63F. 19 miles. David Jones of Port Talbot in a new Gents Record time of 13 hrs. 1 min. This crossing has now been swum by an Englishman, an Irishman and a Welshman. Any candidates from North of the border? Applications please to me as soon as possible in 1978. It is difficult to make last minute arrangements due to the availability of boats, pilots, etc. Also periods of possibility are strictly limited.

Sunday September 11th 1977 - Swansea to Mumbles Pier. Temperature 63F; Sea wind force 2 to calm. 3 miles.

1.	J. Baker	1.26.21.	1.	Alison Roberts	1.33.39.
2.	D. Schliker	1.29.25.	2.	Christine Miles	1.49.47.
3.	P. Crayford	1.36.53.	3.	Carolyn Evans	1.55.36.
4.	L. McVitie	2.05.27.	4.	Jeanette Donovan	2.10.21.
5.	V. Davies	2.12.03.	5.	Gillian Strange	2.46.07.
6.	P. Davies	2.14.05.			
7.	L. Cox	2.30.20.			
8.	J. Perrot	2.50.00. (Credited)			

A sponsor has been found who is prepared to assist with a National Porthcawl Championship in 1978. Swimmers from England, Scotland, and Ireland and also

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those Welsh swimmers who have already completed the Porthcawl Championship should apply to me not later than March 1978. Please enclose a S.A.E. for a reply, as it will not be possible to include more than one man and one woman from each country.

Peter Tyrell, F.I.S.T., 7, Chesshyre Street, Brynmill, Swansea, Glamorgan, S.2 ODB.

ESSEX LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

There were cheers from the crowds at Clacton Pier when local swimmer, 19-year-old Linda Westlake, stepped ashore after taking the ladies title in the eleventh E.L.D.S.A. Walton to Clacton Championships. This was Linda's second triumph in the championships as she was first in the ladies section in 1975. This time as she was helped up the Pier steps by stewards at the finish of a gruelling race, spectators applauded and cheered her plucky attempt. The overall winner was 18-year-old Vincent Barter (Merton Swordfish, Sutton) who swam the seven miles in 2.20.57. Linda was second overall and her time was 2.25.27. Linda had a tremendous swim. Carol Pines kept up with her for the first mile and then Linda began to pull away and led the field until well past Holland Haven. It was at this point that Vincent overtook Linda. From the Gunfleet outfall buoy Linda retrieved ground and for the final mile she was closing the gap all the way and finally finished about 20 yards behind Vincent.

The swimmers were officially congratulated by Mr. Laurie King, Chairman of Tendring District Council. Vincent looked fit for a few more miles, but Linda seemed near to exhaustion and was suffering from cold. She managed a smile for the cameras however, and after a hot drink to stop the shivering asked for her favourite ice cream. Out of 18 starters, 14 completed the course: Vincent Barter who received the Kingsman Cup, Terry Lyons, Michael Rad, Jeff Tanner, Fred Eastman Jun., Hugh Arnot, Peter Gravett, Trevor Symmons, Cedric Webster, John Carter who received the Veterans Trophy, Ladies - Linda Westlake who received the Sharp Trophy for the Ladies champion, The Essex Trophy (First Essex swimmer to finish) and the Clacton Trophy (first Clacton swimmer to finish), Carol Pines, Kathy Smith and Tina Spry. The four who retired were Andrew Wright, Peter Haines, Derek Haines and Maureen Eastman who gave up because her rescue boat was unable to keep pace.

It was a family occasion for both the Westlakes and the Eastmans. Linda's brother, Nick, rowed for her and her parents acted as stewards. Fred Eastman's father, Fred, was in the pilot boat at the head of all the swimmers. Fred Jun. was the youngest competitor and was swimming in his first ever long distance swim. At the finish he looked as though he could have done it all again!

The swimmers had the tide with them, but the wind, due West, was against them all the way. No records were broken and times were slow. This was due said Nick Westlake, publicity officer, to some choppy water round Holland Haven, which slowed the competitors down. Every swimmer was accompanied by an escort boat with qualified lifesavers on board. St Johns Ambulance stood by in case of need. The E.L.D.S.A. wish to thank everyone who helped with the event and especially the boat crews without whose assistance the swim could not have been held.

Sad news for the Club has been the death of a former President Barney Kingsman in August; he had been in poor health for some time. But some glad tidings has been the marriage of the Secretary to Ken Goodwin. Date of next year's swim: July 8th 1978.

Maureen A. Goodwin, 44, North Road, Great Clacton, Essex. Tel. [illegible].

JERSEY LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CLUB

It is with pleasure that I present the 4th Annual Report of the Club. The year under review has been a busy and successful one. Once again a club member has swum the English Channel. The Club wishes to place on record its congratulations to David Minty for his fine achievement in becoming the fifth and

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fastest Jersey Channel swimmer. The Club is pleased that its trainer and members were able to help him and his father who acted as his trainer. One Club member - Jane Luscombe - has already expressed her intentions of crossing the Channel next year. Her pilot has been booked and the Club wishes her well. At the beginning of the year it was decided that the Club should aim to take part in the major B.L.D.S.A. Lake Championships. Plans were made and entries were made into the Lakes Bala and Windermere Championships and our swimmers acquitted themselves well. In addition Deborah Banks and Graham Lowe made individual attempts on Lake Coniston and covered the 5½ mile course in 2.47 and 2.55 respectively. The achievements of our swimmers did not go un-noticed and the B.L.D.S.A. has asked if Jersey will take part as a nation in the Windermere International next year.

The Annual Skol Championships took place for the first time this year in St. Aubin's Bay.

Seniors St. Aubin - St. Helier - St. Aubin

1.	Robert de St. Paer	3.09.30.	1. Sally Minty	2.33.00.
			2. Jane Luscombe	2.46.30.

Juniors St. Helier - St. Aubin

1.	Michael Davies	0.58.00.	1. Deborah Banks	1.10.17.
2.	Graham Lowe	1.10.55.		
3.	Christopher Banks	1.11.35.		

The Club Championships took place on Sunday 18th September and because of the weather conditions it was decided to swim the Juniors over a shorter course than the Seniors.

Seniors Gorey to St. Catherine's; Ladies only.

			1. Linda Devereux	0.39.12.
			2. Sally Minty	0.39.40.
			3. Jane Luscombe	0.42.24.

Juniors Anne Port to St. Catherine's

1.	David Minty	0.34.26.	1. Deborah Banks	0.41.30.
2.	Christopher Banks	0.37.20.	2. Sarah Le Breuilly	0.52.19.
3.	Graham Lowe	0.41.50.		

Once again the Club is pleased to report that Sally Minty has represented Great Britain in an International Event, this time in a 16 kilometre race in Rabobank Holland. She was placed third in a field of experienced swimmers. The Club wishes to place on record its thanks to Mrs. Judy Brooks who has donated a trophy in memory of her husband 'Wally' who was a great friend of the club and its first Honorary member. The trophy is to be presented 'for achievement in competition' and it has been won for the first time by Jane Luscombe. A club shield has been re-allocated and it has been awarded 'for encouragement'. The first winner of it is Sarah Le Breuilly.

Several local individual swims have been made this year. The most notable of these are:-

1. Round the Island, starting and finishing at Elizabeth Castle Breakwater - David Minty - 10 hr. 54 min. (Record).
2. La Rocque to Bouley Bay - Graham Lowe - 4 hr. 55 min.
3. " " " " - Deborah Banks - 3 hr.

As part of a fund raising effort a round the island relay race took place. Two teams of three took part and the result was a win for the team of Sally Minty, Deborah Banks and Jane Luscombe in a time of 9 hr. 46 min., with Linda Devereux, Robert de St. Paer and David Minty finishing 12 minutes behind them.

The Club wishes to express its thanks to the following who have helped it to achieve its aims:-

1. Tony Watton and members of the Jersey Canoe Club for accompanying its swimmers, most particularly Kim Letchford who turned out at all hours on numerous occasions.
2. Fort Regent Pool Management, De La Salle College, the Merton Hotel and the Jersey Swimming Club for providing training facilities.
3. Advocate Peter Mourant and Mr. Malcolm Gulliver for providing their craft as guard boats at our major swims.

In conclusion I would like to thank Jo and Maurice Lakeman for their assistance during my year as Secretary. New Hon. Sec. will be Maurice Lakeman, 11, Le Douettin, Gorey, Jersey.

As can be seen from this report we have again had a very successful year of AGS.

achievement, but one important factor remains a thorn in our side - finance. By their very nature the swims which the club members undertake are costly. Any suggestions from members for relieving the committee of some of the burden of fund raising would be most gratefully received. Finally I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their support, and to wish all members a successful year ahead.

The date of the annual Skol Race will be Saturday July 29th. The race will take place in St. Aubin's Bay. All races end at St. Aubin's. The seniors will depart from St. Aubin's at 1.00 p.m. and the juniors from St. Helier about an hour later. There is a slight tidal assistance from St. Helier to St. Aubin.

Marie Luscombe, Coix au Maitre, St. Martin, Jersey.

KING'S LYNN GLADIATORS

It has been a successful year for long distance swimming in Norfolk. We will miss Michael Read who has moved from Norfolk to the next county. Best wishes travel with you Michael from Norfolk. Unfortunately we have not had good enough weather for any attempts on the Wash this year. Nevertheless we saw Margaret Smith swim from Downham Market to King's Lynn in the relief channel, a distance of 9 miles. Club members took part in the International Trials, Grimsby Water Rats dock swim, Torbay and Morecambe Bay as well as the first St. Germans to Kings Lynn 4¼ mile river swim organised by the Gladiators.

Wade Bostock who was competing in his first long distance event finished in front of an 18 strong line-up and became the first holder of the Doug Back Trophy. With his powerful stroke he soon went into the lead from St. Germans Bridge and stayed in front all the time. He finished the race with a few butterfly strokes to show his stamina. A crowd of about 200 had watched the race and there were about 300 to greet the swimmers at the finish.

Of the 18 starters, only two failed to finish the course, 60-year-old Arthur Williams from Warrington and 21-year-old Terri Broorman from the Women's Royal Air Force. Water temperature had been between 57 and 60 degrees, with the strong wind making conditions choppy; the swimmers had the benefit of the tidal flow. On Saturday evening, the Gladiators held a reception at Hotel Hildenhall Lynn where the Mayor Mr. Frank Cork presented the trophies.

Results

1.	Wade Bostock	1.11.43.	1.	Gina Clarke	1.15.45.
2.	Eric Millican	1.15.16.	2.	Carol Pines	1.17.38.
3.	Chris Carter	1.16.32.	3.	Margaret Smith	1.31.54.
4.	Peter Stephens	1.18.49.			
5.	Pete Gravett	1.26.49.			
6.	Robert Procter	1.28.26.			
7.	Peter Winchester	1.29.53.			
8.	Rex Tedd	1.30.41.			
9.	Brian Waterall	1.31.05.			
10.	Desmond Holmes	1.37.43.			
11.	Harry Tenby	1.38.44.			
12.	David Marsh	1.41.17.			
13.	Frank Black	1.43.43.			
Unofficial entry: Kevin Elfleet		1.32.30.			

Harry Tenby, 14, Chadwick Square, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

I can't imagine that we shall ever again see such a record-breaking year as that of our Golden Jubilee. Three swimmers beat Wendy Brook's remarkable time of 9 hrs. 56 mins., Nasser El Shazley, (Egypt, pilot Val Noakes) finally setting the new record for all-comers of 9 hrs. 45 mins. Nasser will win the Rolex Watch for the year's fastest swim. Barry Watson's record of 9 hrs. 35 mins.

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stood for 12 years, Wendy's for only one year. Barry's record still stands of course for the France - England swim. David Morgan (U.K., pilot Bert Reed) at 13 yrs. 9 mths., became the youngest conqueror, and won the C.S.A. Centenary Trophy for the fastest U.K. swimmer of the year in the excellent time of 11 hrs. 5 mins. The Egyptian Relay Team, (pilot Bert Reed) broke the two-way record of Hetzel's Texas Volunteers 11 of 17 hrs. 50½ mins. with their swim of 17 hrs. 34 mins., only to see it fall a few days later to the Saudi Arabian Team, (pilot Val Noakes) with the terrific swim of 16 hrs. 5½ mins. In this swim they also set up a new one way relay record of 7 hrs. 58 mins. to win the Garnet Martin Trophy.

The piece-de-resistance must be that of Cindy Nicholas, (Canada, pilot Val Noakes) for her incredible 19 hrs. 55 mins. for the two-way solo, to break Jon Erikson's (U.S.A.) record by 10 hrs. 5 mins. In retrospect I guess both Cindy and Val are regretting that an attempt on the so-far elusive three-way was not made - the Observers' Reports indicate that she stormed ashore in a cloud of spray like a hovercraft. The Chairman and I went to see Cindy in at Folkestone Harbour after the swim, and she looked, sounded and behaved as if she had just finished a training swim. It is an interesting coincidence that Cindy comes from Scarborough, Canada, and David Morgan from Scarborough England. King of the Channel, Des Renford, Australia, made his annual pilgrimage to complete his 11th successful swim, to put his crown a little farther out of the reach of Mike Read. Mike however is hot on the trail with 10 swims, and this year equalled Des in making 3 successful crossings in one year.

Dr. Christopher Stockdale's (pilot Ian Stockdale) magnificent effort, successfully terminated in wretched weather after 17¾ hours, made him the first winner of the Danny Van Audenaerde Endurance Trophy. Chris tells me that he has to date received £6,800 for his sponsored swim, to buy Kidney Machines for his patients. An event that we always hoped would never happen, the wrecking of the pilot boat because of a freak occurence, terminated the swim. Fortunately it was only the Chairman who was the Observer.

The Golden Jubilee Reception on 13th August was a memorable occasion. Some 80 members and their guests were present including such old friends as Sunny (Lowry) Anderson, General Zorkani leading the Arab Nations contingent, Danny and Etienne Van Audenaerde, Ken Brewer, Kevin Murphy, Mike Read, Norman Trusty, Tom Hetzel, Sid and Margot Orford, Theresa Zaraeczanska, Ned Barnie who now features prominently in the Album tripping the light fantastic toe with Abla Khairy, Stella Taylor, Chris and Sue Guesden. Gerald Forsberg gave us another of his inimitable discourses, full of wit and wisdom, before presenting the awards gained up to that day. We were very proud of the Associations Committee Golden Jubilee Relay Team, so ably led by Gerry, the only successful swim out of nine attempts on the day. I hope I may be permitted to mention Committee Member Jack Chown, who at 62 is perhaps the oldest swimmer to have taken part in a successful relay attempt. He was still fit enough on his return here with most of the team and Observer Fred Seagrove (over 70) at 1.30 a.m. to put away huge quantities of food, wine and champagne. Jack wanted to drive back to London afterwards at 3.30 a.m. but we put him to bed instead! Some men, these Channel swimmers!

The Chairman's Reception in the Hall, South Kent College of Technology, Folkestone on 5th November, was perhaps the most successful function that we have had. Some 130 members and guests attended, including a strong contingent, - some 50 - from Belgium, led by Danny and Etienne Van Audenaerde and our old friend Pierre Van Vooren (E/E 1963, E/P 1965). The Mayor of Folkestone, Mrs. Ivy Allen, very graciously presented the awards and certificates and made one of the most informative and interesting speeches that we have ever had on these occasions. We were particularly pleased with the success of Treasurer, Peter Cox, who, when completing his swim, held up all shipping in and out of Calais Harbour for over half-an-hour. Among those present who were not at the Jubilee Reception were: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Oldman, the Mintys from Jersey, the Siflects from Torquay, the Morgans from Scarborough, Ken Bailey, Li Barber, Barry Watson.

The A.G.M. was held on the following day. We were sorry that Sam Rockett has had to relinquish office for the time being owing to business commitments, but we know that we can always call on him in need. Our thanks are due to those retiring members of Committee who were not re-elected. A notable absentee from both functions in November was Ned Barnie. The Venerable Ned, now in his 91st year, has not missed an A.G.M. and Reception for over 20 years, but this

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time found him in hospital. We were very sorry to learn of the recent passing of Nellie, Ned's wife. In addition to sending a "get-well" card to Ned, the A.C.M. sent a card of commiseration to Imre Szenasi, the handicapped Hungarian swimmer. Imre arrived at Dover to make his second attempt, but by the greatest misfortune fell down the stairs as he was getting off the boat, and injured his good leg. He was of course quite unable to swim and had to return to Hungary right away. We also sent a card of congratulation to Benson and Nancy Huggers on the birth of their daughter.

I wish to thank the donors of new trophies: Mrs. Sotiraki, Derek Turner and Danny Van Audenaerde. May I say "many thanks" to those who sent me photographs for the Album and repeat the request for any you may have in 1978. I can not say too often how much the Association owes to our faithful band of observers, without whose devotion our work would be null and void. The ranks of our cadre have grown this year, but I shall always welcome new recruits. To the pilots on whose ever-ready and willing co-operation I rely so much, my blessings and thanks. To H.M. Coastguards, Customs and Imigration Officers, my warm appreciation of their help at any and all hours of the day and night. They must often curse us, but their sporting instincts and appreciation of the efforts of our swimmers always come to our aid. To general Manager Kenneth Davis and Officers of the Dover Harbour Board, my grateful thanks for the special arrangements so readily made for Channel swimmers in the Harbour waters. To marathon swimmers the world over, their encouragement and help so readily given by so many is always a source of wonder and admiration.

Audrey Scott, Sunnybank, Alkham Valley Road, Hawkinge, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 7EH. Tel: Hawkinge 2889.

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THE IRISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

I have pleasure in presenting the 11th Annual Report on the activities of our Association. The 1977 season started briskly with the short 1¾ mile annual race on Saturday, 27th June from the Boathouse in Carrickfergus Harbour past the fine ancient and historic castle to the Fisherman's Quay and back. The water temperature was 56F (no jellyfish on this occasion).

1.	Richard Skillen	31 mts.	40.	Junior Section			
2.	Terry Wood	35	42.	1.	Neil Fletcher	29 mts.	31.
3.	Jim Burton	35	53.	2.	Gareth Archer	30	35.
4.	David Bell	50	58.				

Copeland Island to Donaghadee Swim

This race was held on Saturday, 6th August in excellent weather and tidal conditions. Quite a number of spectators and picnic parties were already waiting on the beach on the Island to see us off. The water in the Sound was as usual very clear and cold. The water being 54F. It was an interesting race right from the start with Gareth Archer and his Bangor club mate Arnold Mahood leading most of the way.

1.	Gareth Archer	48 mts.	27.	1.	Estelle Munnis	61 mts.	34.
2.	Arnold Mahood	51	16.	2.	Anne Munis	57	32.
3.	Richard Skillen	52	37.	3.	Susan Neill	60	18.
4.	Terry Wood	59	38.	4.	Margaret Smith	75	14.
5.	Jim Burton	60	12.	5.	Sheena Grierson	76	12.
6.	William Wallace	72	14.				
7.	Herbert Harrison	75	32.				
8.	David Bell	90	48.				

All competitors finished the swim. Miss Estelle Munnis created a new Ladies record for this race, and another record was made when Mrs. Sheena Grierson did the swim. Although Sheena has completed this swim on many occasions, but on this occasion she was the first Mother to complete the swim. Congratulations to both young ladies. Our President Mr. Ian Paterson must also be congratulated for the excellent way he organised the race, and the reception in the Imperial Hotel.

The 2nd Lough Neagh Endurance Swimming Race

This race was held on Saturday, [illegible] after many days of a gale force 7 wind that was blowing from the South West. It was impossible to have it over the usual course from Ardmore, Co. Antrim across the 1½ mile width of the Lough to the Battery, Arboe, Co. Tyrone. The alternative course

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was from the new Ballyronan Marina to the Battery in Arboe, Co. Tyrone, a distance of 6 miles. The water was choppy and 61F.

1.	Bruce Beckett	3.05.55.	1. Margaret Smith 5.49.01.
2.	Ian Reid	3.17.16.	Retired: Mary Brown, Phyllis Sullivan.
3.	Chris Carter	3.30.00.	
4.	Richard Skillen	3.53.00.	
5.	Jim Burton	4.17.30.	
6.	Terry Wood	4.38.20.	
7.	Herbert Harrison	5.27.10.	
8.	William Wallace	5.33.20.	
9.	Chris Green	6.07.10.	

The alternative course is a reasonable one, and one that we know could be extended if required.

Carrickfergus to Crawfordsburn Beach Swim

This swim was held on Saturday, 20th August but like the Lough Neagh Swim it had to be held over an alternative course because of weather conditions. A strong North West wind was blowing with Gale Force 6, and although it may have given the swimmers some assistance, the small escort rowing boats would have found difficulty in staying with the swimmers. The alternative course on this occasion was also a First, and measured 5¼ miles. It was from the Cultra Yacht Club House to the beach at Crawfordsburn. Water temperature was 58F. Most of the competitors found it an interesting swim, because of the close proximity of the shore. On this occasion also the lads from Bangor led most of the way.

1.	Neil Cooper	1.39.50.	Junior Section		
2.	Richard Skillen	1.45.31.	1.	Arnold Mahood	1.41.44.
3.	Terry Wood	1.57.15.	2.	Gareth Archer	1.47.35.
4.	Jim Burton	1.59.57.			
5.	William Wallace	2.21.52.			
6.	David Bell	2.56.44.			

All the competitors finished. After the Swim a very welcome Reception was held in the Helens Bay Life Guard Club premises on the beach at Helen's Bay. Our Vice President and former International Footballer Mr. Clancy McDermott presented the trophies to the successful competitors. This was followed by a musical evening.

Proposed Dates of Swims

Fisherman's Quay, Carrickfergus, 1¼ miles, Friday 16th June, Start 7.30 p.m.
Copeland Island to Donaghadee Harbour, 3 miles, Saturday 29th July, or 5th August, or 12th August.
Carrickfergus to Crawfordsburn Beach, 5 miles, Sunday 23rd July, start 12 noon.
Whitehead to Bangor, 7 miles, Saturday, 19th August, start 10 a.m.
4th International 10 mile Swim across Lough Neagh from Ardmore to Arboe on Saturday 12th August, start 9.30 a.m.
In conclusion I thank all the Members, Officials, and Race Secretaries for their assistance and co-operation during the 1977 Season. I also wish to extend my congratulations to Dick Skillen and Jim Burton for their successful Windermere.

David Bell, 2, Marina Park, Belfast, BT5 6BA.

HOVACRAFT INSHORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the Gents Championship, first was S. Dockrey of Stockport, second was C. Coddard of Haslingden and third was P. Safton of Macclesfield. The local champion was A. Rutlidge and the Best First Attemp Trophy was won by V. Roberts. In the Ladies Championship, the first three were local girls for the first time ever: S. Crawford (also a new local record), S. Cardwell (also a new junior record and the junior local trophy) and M. Rutlidge. A new breaststroke ladies record was set up by K. Curtis of Macclesfield.
Dates for 1978: Gents May 13th, Ladies May 20th.
It is of interest to report that in July this year I was presented with the Rothmans and Evening Post award for service to sport. 65 years a live interest in swimming and water polo, [illegible] 50 years. Some time ago I received the Service Silver Shield of the Commonwealth of the Royal Life Saving Society.

Arthur Shibley. 64, Melrose Street, Lancaster, LA1 3QA.
ASA.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1977

Our participation in overseas events this year was on the whole, comparable to last year, although we could have hoped for better results than we had. The selection committee picked a team to represent the BLDSA at both Brugge and Anna Paulowna, and next year we hope to be able to select another team for one additional overseas event.

Correspondence with overseas Associations involved in long distance swimming was increased in 1977, contacts being made with Syria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Holland, Malta, USSR, Turkey, and the newly formed Marathon Swimming Council in New Zealand.

Following correspondence with our colleagues in Czechoslovakia last year, regarding concern over the fact that amateur long distance swimming has no world governing body under the auspices of FINA, the B.L.D.S.A. is now pursuing the matter. We have considerable support from other nations in this venture, and the backing of the B.S.A. A proposal has been put forward to the FINA executive committee and we are now awaiting their comments.

Jubilee Draw & Auction: As you will have seen, during last season a special B.L.D.S.A. Medallion and two brandy goblets were individually and uniquely hand engraved and presented to the Association to raise funds for the international section. The Medallion and one Goblet were auctioned and the other Goblet presented from a prize draw. The winner of the draw was Mrs. J.D.Neill of Clinton Park, Peterhead, Lincs. The highest bid for the Medallion was by Mr. Robert Welch of Montfaith, Dunoon. This bid was for £20 and this was donated to the Windermere International Fund. The highest bidder for the second Goblet came by letter from Germany; Mr. Bernhard Markwitz of Bema Swimbands. His winning bid was for £50.00.
The total amount raised by the Draw and the Auction was £139.23, £20 of which was transferred to the Windermere International Fund.

International Selection: The selection of swimmers to represent the B.L.D.S.A. will ONLY take effect as and when there are funds available for use in helping to finance expenses of swimmers travelling abroad. When there are funds available to send, or assist in sending swimmers overseas, then the final selection of such swimmers will be made by the International Selection Committee (Who are elected by the B.L.D.S.A. executive committee), and swimmers will be informed accordingly. The selection committee consists of:- Mrs. T.J.Parsons (Secretary), Mr. D. J.Owen, Mr. A.Craven, Mrs. [illegible], Mr. I.Ferguson [illegible].
ANY MEMBER of the B.L.D.S.A. is entitled to represent the Association in an overseas event, providing He/She enters through the channels of the International Secretary, but all expenses must be paid by the individual concerned in such cases.

International Trials: The importance of competing in the International Trials is stressed in the strongest terms to all members who wish to be considered for selection.

Overseas Events 1978: Any swimmers who may be interested in entering overseas events other than those for which selections will take place - please will they contact me as early as possible during the season for details and information. Remember that most entries must be in at least a month prior to the event!
NB: MOST IMPORTANT! ANY SWIMMER WHO ENTERS AN OVERSEAS EVENT WITHOUT BEING THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO REPRESENT THE B.L.D.S.A. AND WILL REPRESENT HIS/HER OWN SWIMMING CLUB, AND NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TAKEN BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR OBTAINING AUTHORISATION FROM THE A.S.A. OR FOR FULFILLING ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE RELATIVE TO THE EVENT.

A list of overseas events for 1978 will be duplicated and distributed at the AGM. If you wish for a copy by post, or any other information, telephone or write enclosing an S.A.E. please.

Sponsorship: Individual swimmers are at liberty to try and obtain local sponsorship to assist their passages to overseas events, but they are strongly reminded that they MUST NOT contravene A.S.A. law in so doing.

Sports Council - Grant Aid: The B.L.D.S.A. has, for several years now, been trying to get recognition from the Sports Council that we are a national sporting body worthy of the assistance of Grant Aid. For the information of members, the Sports Council Grant Aid is allocated to assist payment of the costs of travelling expenses only to overseas international events, and the Sports Council will assist national governing bodies, in granting 75% of the costs involved. In correspondence we were informed that our application must be made through the A.S.A. as they were the recognised national governing body of swimming. Many letters have been written, telephone calls made and meetings held towards this end. I am very pleased to say that earlier on this year we were informed by the A.S.A. that the Sports Council had agreed to an application for grant aid for Brugge and Anne Paulowne. This application was approved, and therefore our international representatives this year were given greater assistance with expenses than B.L.D.S.A. funds alone could have afforded. An application for Grant Aid in 1978 has already been sent for approval. Assistence has been applied for Brugge, Anne Paulowne, and the Toro swims. We are grateful to Mr. Norman Bersfield and Mr. Alf Turner of the A.S.A. who have been putting our case before the Sports Council, and have at last received a positive result for us.

Fund Raising: The sales of B.L.D.S.A. stickers and transfers have now been allottedto the Insignia Secretary Mr. Alan Humphries. Please send all orders and requests for these items to him. An order form is attatched with your annual report.

The B.L.D.S.A.'s fund raising secretary, Mrs.Marie Toft is in charge of all fund raising events of the Association, and is doing a tremendous amount of work in this field. Any member with ideas for fund raising for the B.L.D.S.A. please contact her. Thank you.

Results and Records of Overseas Swims: A record of results and reports on overseas races and championships is being compiled and constantly updated by myself. This set of records is my own personal property, but will be available for members to look at, at any event or function that I attend, including the AGM, when most members are present. To assist with this, ANY MEMBERS WITH ANY DETAILS OF RESULTS OF OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES (PAST OR PRESENT) - ie: REPORTS OR RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, PLEASE SEND DETAILS TO ME SO THAT THEY CAN BE INCLUDED. THANK YOU.

Windermere International Championships 1978:- These will take place on [illegible] available for that way to obtain [illegible] any other way, please contact the International Secretary. Thank you.

International Trials 1978: Date and venue not yet confirmed at the time of writing. Details in information bulletin.

International Trials 1977 - RESULTS

Date: Saturday 25th June 1977 Venue: Willen Lake, Milton Keynes

The venue for the Trials was superb both as a scenic spectacle and as a "clean and fresh" swim. This years entries were much lower than last year, although the committee had expected this due to the very late notification of the dates and venue.

There were thirty starters in the six championships. Some swimmers were still suffering from the tough Morecambe Bay swim, held the week before, which took its toll. The weather by way of consolation was cloudy with nice bright intervals and the overall average temperature of the lake was 60 degrees F. It would not be right to complete the report without mentioning the wonderful job done by Brian Dove who handled the safety part of the swim, Fred Oldman who acted as judge (terra firma) and Lewis Craven who acted as judge (afloat and saloon bar), our President John O'Hara who acted as referee and host to our official guests (Mr. John Hood of Hestair Dennis Motors and Mr. Kevin Murphy), and Harry Tenby who took charge of the bar. The committee would also like to thank the Milton Keynes Swimming Federation, who's officials did a super job on the stopwatches, and we now hope that they will go ahead and hold their own championships next year. The presentations took place on the pleasure boat and the Mayor and Mayoress of Milton Keynes were in attendance.

The immediate verbal response indicated that all the swimmers and officials had thoroughly enjoyed the days sport, and we ended the day with a bank balance in the black....who could ask for anything more?

LADIES 12KMS FREESTYLE

1st: MELANIE SMITH, SINGLEY	3hours 09mins 35secs	
2nd: SALLY MINTY, JERSEY	3hours 12mins 36secs	
Retirements: Mary Yeats,Dundee: Gina Spry,Billesden: Val Parsons,Walsall.		

LADIES 4½KMS FREESTYLE

1st: LINDA WESTLAKE, CLACTON	1hour 11mins 27secs	
2nd: GINA CLARKE, HARRINGTON	1hour 12mins 35secs	
3rd: LINDA HOGGS, R.A.F.	1hour 20mins 17secs	(No retirements)

LADIES 4½KMS BREAST STROKE

1st: SALLY WALKER, DENBIGH	1hour 26mins 55secs	
2nd: CHRISTINE STOCKEY, R.A.F.	1hour 40mins 42secs	
3rd: MARGARET SMITH, GRIMSBY A.R.	1hour 50mins 51secs	
4th: [illegible] COWNE, WALSALL S.C.	1hour 59mins 20secs	(No retirements)

MENS 12KMS FREESTYLE

1st: ROB EVANS, [illegible]	3hours 10mins 05secs	
2nd: RICHARD WAKEFIELD, MIDDLESBROUGH	3hrs 26mins 46secs	
3rd: CHRIS CARTER, WARRINGTON	3hours 31mins 05secs	
4th: PETER STEVENS, R.N.	3hours 42mins 08secs	
5th: ERIC MILLICAN, [illegible]	3hours 44mins 49secs	
6th: MICHAEL READ, NORWICH	3hours 45mins 05secs	
Retirements: Peter Gravett,R.A.F.: Rex Todd,Norfolk: Martin Richards,Dewsbury		

MENS 4½KMS FREESTYLE

1st: ROBERT SHE BURN, [illegible]	1hour 04mins 07secs	
2nd: MICHAEL FLAHERTY, R.N.	1hour 04mins 13secs	
3rd: TERRY LYONS, RICHMOND	1hour 14mins 45secs	
4th: GEOFFREY LLOYD, LIBERATION	1hour 16mins 48secs	
5th: ALAN HUMPHRIES, HARRINGTON	1hour 19mins 30secs	
6th: JEFF TANNER, [illegible]TON	1hour 21mins 31secs	
7th: TREVOR SY[illegible]ONS	1hour 41mins 35secs	(No retirements)

MENS 4½KMS BREAST STROKE

1st: ROGER PARSONS, WALSALL	1hour 23mins 25secs	(No other competitors)

OVERSEAS RESULTS 1977

BRUGGE, BELGIUM: 3KMS CANAL RACE, 3rd JULY 1977

B.L.D.S.A. REPRESENTATIVES: MARY [illegible] & BARBIE YEATS, DUNDEE S.C.

22 entries completed for the ladies freestyle event.

1st: HILDE BLEYAERT, DSO Belgium	30mins 26secs	
4th: MARY YEATS, B.L.D.S.A.	32mins 32secs	
15th:BARBIE YEATS, B.L.D.S.A.	39mins 42secs	

BLANKENBERGE, BELGIUM: 3KMS OPEN SEA CHAMPIONSHIPS, 9th JULY 1977

B.L.D.S.A. REPRESENTATIVES: CHRISTINE STOCKEY, R.A.F: MARY YEATS, DUNDEE S.C. VAL PARSONS, WALSALL S.C: RON EVANS, NORWICH: ROGER PARSONS, WALSALL S.C.

CONDITIONS: Water Temp approx 65degrees, with force 6-7 winds behind swimmers!

[illegible] LADIES 3K[illegible]

1st: LINDA [illegible]	[illegible]mins 3[illegible]secs	
12th: CHRISTINE STOCKEY, BELGIUM	51mins 50secs	

MENS BREAST STROKE (39 entries)

1st: LYDEN [illegible]LDERS, HOLLAND	41mins 04secs	
7th: ROGER PARSONS, BELGIUM	44mins 06secs	

LADIES FREESTYLE (21 entries)

1st: MONIQUE WILLEMSHOF, HOLLAND	36mins 10secs	
5th: VAL PARSONS, BELGIUM	40mins 26secs	
9th: MARY YEATS, BELGIUM	42mins 24secs	

MENS FREESTYLE (45 entries)

1st: MR. [illegible]LTING, HOLLAND	34mins 40secs	
2nd: RON EVANS, BELGIUM	35mins 23secs	

Under the weather conditions prevailing, it was just about impossible to see any other competitor in the event but to all intents and purposes it became an individual swim to the finish. The first five in each event were awarded 2" medallions with event & placing engraved on the back. All other competitors were presented with a magnificent wall tile momento of the event.
Congratulations to Ron on coming in second - maybe number one next year Ron??

ANNA PAULOWNA, HOLLAND: [illegible] INTERNATIONAL, 7th AUGUST 1977

B.L.D.S.A. SELECTED TEAM: SALLY MINTY, [illegible] SMITH, BINGLEY
RICHARD HATFIELD, MIDDLESBROUGH: HAMISH WINTER, DUNDEE.

[illegible] much to their amusement [illegible] problem overcome, they arrived at Rotterdam safely, having been very impressed by the luxurious(and expensive)ferry. Everything was going as planned until they were due to meet Sally at the central station. There was no sign of Sally, so they made their way to Anna Paulowna only to find that she had caught the earlier train and was there waiting for them. The team were met by the organiser of the swim and one of the hosts. We were told that there were only 7 swimmers for the event-not the 16 expected. We were taken to where we were staying and the two days before the swim were spent looking at the course shopping and generally being well entertained by the Dutch.

Sunday arrived, and we were up early for the briefing at 9am which was followed by a medical examination - a thorough one at that! The doctor announced that 3 of the British swimmers were fit, but he wasnt too sure about Dick!! By this time we had heard that one of the Dutch swimmers had dropped out, leaving only 6 of us.

The swim started at 12 noon and the Dutch swimmers immediately showed us their heels! After about an hours swimming it began raining hard and our "personal coaches" in the boats were soaked! It became obvious that the Dutch swimmers were having their own race and we were having ours! The results were:-

1st: TON BROUWER, [illegible] HOLLAND	3hours 53mins	30.9secs
2nd: IRENE V/D LAAN, [illegible] HOLLAND	4hours 7mins	23.3secs
3rd: SALLY MINTY, BLDSA	4hours 26mins	00.4secs
4th: RICHARD HATFIELD, BLDSA	4hours 29mins	13.6secs
5th: MELANIE SMITH, BLDSA	4hours 29mins	33.3secs
6th: HAMISH [illegible], BLDSA	4hours 45mins	19.3secs

Following the swim, and after a further medical examination, there was the presentation, after which free drinks were once again provided by the Dutch. (They dont half woof some stuff:!) The Dutch people had really planned this trip well - [illegible] were taken

BRUGGE, BELGIUM: [illegible] INTERNATIONAL, 13th AUGUST 1977

B.L.D.S.A. SELECTED TEAM: Mens Freestyle:-[illegible] WOODS, NORTHWICH SWIMMING CLUB, R.J. ROBERT SHERBURN, W.L.D.S.A: Ladies Freestyles-VAL PARSONS, WALSALL. Reserve:-[illegible], BLACKPOOL: Mens Breaststroke:-DAVE COMPTON, Ref: [illegible] PARSONS WALSALL. Ladies Breaststroke:-SALLY WALKER, [illegible]. Reserve:-CHRISTINE STOCKLEY, [illegible].

Val and Roger Parsons travelled to Belgium late Friday evening 5th Aug., and next morning they checked that the hotels for the other swimmers were OK and then visited the secretary of the championships to return the trophies that we won last year and check on the times of the races, briefing etc. They then proceeded to Zeebrugge to meet the others arriving from Dover. On arrival, each swimmer was relieved of their luggage and with map went by public transport to Brugge and their hotels, while Val & Roger transported their luggage for them. The swimmers had a short briefing about the race and conditions, after which they spent a pleasant evening exploring the old town. Emphasis had been put on the fact that it was a team effort aswell as an individual battle for honours, and we had 3 trophies at stake to defend. All went well for the check-in and transport to the start. As usual, not much is known until the finish, when Val and Roger were seen "peering" over the shoulders of recorders to see where our swimmers finished! Most BLDSA swimmers were pleased with their own performances although the placings were not as high as we had hoped. With a marked lack of Dutch this year, the Belgians took the forefront, with us close behind. Congratulations to Dave Cometson on his international debut coming 3rd behind an ex-olympic finalist! Hard lines to Robert Sherburn also his international debut, a disappointing 17th - and a blow to our hopes of retaining the Mens Freestyle trophy. Better swims next year, Robert. At the present time, we found that the BLDSA had retained the BLDSA trophy, but unfortunately had to relinquish the other two. The BLDSA trophy has been ours for two years now, if we can win it for the 3rd time next year it becomes our property - so, swimmers, get training hard and lets see if we can do the hat trick in 1978!

RESULTS

LADIES BREAST STROKE:(25 entries) 1st: Christine Lemon,Belgium WBK 1h.19m.17s
5th: SALLY WALKER, B.L.D.S.A. 1h.22m.40s
10th: CHRISTINE STOCKLEY, B.L.D.S.A. 1h.30m.03s

MENS BREAST STROKE:(64 entries)

1st: Thierry Timmermans, SCS Belgium	1hour 09mins 16secs
3rd: DAVE COMETSON, B.L.D.S.A.	1hour 11mins 00secs
8th: ROGER PARSONS, B.L.D.S.A.	1hour 16mins 25secs

LADIES FREESTYLE:(30 entries)

1st: Isobelle Maertens, KZK Belgium	57mins 03secs (New Record)
4th: VAL PARSONS, B.L.D.S.A.	1hour 05mins 29secs
5th: LINDA WESTLAKE, B.L.D.S.A.	1hour 09mins 03secs

MENS FREESTYLE:(77 entries)

1st: Franky Degroote, KZK Belgium	52mins 50secs
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
17th: ROBERT SHERBURN, B.L.D.S.A.	01mins 03secs

TEAM POINTS RESULTS: BLOSO TROPHY:(Highest placed swimmers,one from each event)

1st: BLDSA (SALLY [illegible],Val PARSONS,DAVE COMETSON,RON EVANS)
16 points
2nd: KZK BELGIUM 46 points.

HERMAN MACHIELS TROPHY:(Highest placed swimmers,2men freestyle & 2 men breast stroke)

1st: BZK BELGIUM 25points
2nd: BLDSA 86points (EVANS, PLANCHY, COMETSON, PARSONS)

Before bringing my report to a close, I must offer my sincere thanks to all those members who have assisted me during the past year, and of course I must not forget to mention husband Roger, without whose cooperation and assistance during the year, I would not have been able to cope with the volume of work necessary to be your International Secretary.

****** WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF B.L.D.S.A. FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE THANK YOU.

****** PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY.

MRS. V.W.PARSONS
HON INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY,
B.L.D.S.A.
LEANORE HOUSE
222 LEANORE LANE
WALSALL WS2 7DQ
WEST MIDLANDS.

ALL TELEPHONE CALLS TO:-
BLOXWICH (0922) 403744
(A 24 hour answering service is in operation when I am not there in person)

THE SOLENT SWIMMING CLUB

Following last year's glorious summer this year's low sea temperature has put our swimmers to the test. Some fifty 'outings' were made with just over forty completed crossings. The temperature in May did not put off Ron Evans' first attempt on the Solent which broke the fastest ever crossing record with a Ryde-Southsea swim of 1hr. 06min. 27sec. Well done Ron, faster crossings may well have to be observed by the Hovercraft! A team from Oxford used a double relay swim as training ground for a successful Channel Relay. Our lovely stretch of water was so impressive that four team members returned and each completed solo crossings. Most of the Junior Records withstood this year's onslaught except for James Rann's Southsea-Ryde in 1hr. 59min. 40sec. Ian Barnes, Alison Simester and Lesley Read being particularly unlucky on their first Solent swims. Howard George is now the oldest male to swim the Solent.

First time crossings not mentioned elsewhere were completed by David Knowles, Brian Aldridge, Jan Dell, David Bunting, Andrew Burtenshaw, Chris Green, Avril Ralph and Vivien Jacobs. Additional swims were ratified for N. Ralph, M. Caisley, C. Ayling, C. Pines, R. Bradbear, K. Richards, G. Paley, R. Neeve and D. Fell. The most prolific swimmer was Simon Lee with six (including the Three Piers) and Brian Rann a close second with five crossings. R. Glynn added one to his total but the most number of crossings now goes to B. Rann (30).

1st Annual Club Championships (Stokes Bay Gosport)
Ron Evans proved fastest over the 3½ mile course in 1hr. 12min. 36sec. 2nd was James Rann with Simon Lee only 2 secs. behind in 3rd place. Ladies winner was Valerie Parsons, second Carol Pines and third Joanne Lee.

AGS.

Club Awards

Once again the Committee had difficulty in making these awards and finally decided as follows:-

Male Valente Trophy: jointly to Charlie Norman and David McManus.

Charlie (49) completed the difficult Three Piers swim and raised over £300 for the Purbeck Adelines. His finish was watched by several hundred cheering people.

Newcomer to the Solent scene Junior David McManus completed an early Ryde-Southsea and later swam a double in very bad conditions including reversing to avoid a harbour-bound ferry. The boat crew were amazed at David's stamina as many a swimmer would have given up.

Female Valente Trophy goes to Willy van Rysel for her Southsea-Ryde swim which broke her own over 40's, 50's and 60's records.

The Kingston Cup will be presented to Terry Lyons for his Double swim which set new over 40's Southsea-Ryde and Double Records.

Thanks as usual to Stan Felpham for the use of his boat and to the boat crews especially Keith Richards (20 trips), Roy Neeve (17) and John Ayling (12); also thanks to the swimming widows Linda, Lin and Molly. Don Gordon is to be congratulated on a very well organised Championship and for his donation of the Jim Bland Trophy for the winner.

Roy Neeve, 10, Spring Vale, Cowplain, Portsmouth, PO8 9DA. Tel: Horrideon 593523.

WILLY VAN RYSEL

1977 has certainly been a very busy and successful year for Willy. In addition to the Solent swim mentioned in the above report, Willy also came 4th in the Solent Championships and 1st in the B.L.D.S.A. Veterans. But not only has Willy had long distance successes, she has also had some spectacular short-distance successes particularly in America. In the U.S.A. National A.A.U. Short Course Masters Championship at Fort Lauderdale Hall of Fame swimming pool on May 13th, 14th and 15th she gained five silver medals in Freestyle and Backstroke. Then at the U.S.A. National A.A.U. Long Course Masters Championships at Spokane Washington on August 25th, 26th and 27th she gained three gold medals including a National Record and two silver medals. In this country at the Otter S.C. Masters Tournament on 22nd October she gained four firsts including two new records and a 4th and became the winner with Betty Condon of the 1977 Masters Championships Otter Perpetual Trophy Club Winners - Ladies. Also, in March 1977 Willy received the A.S.A. Proficiency in Personal Survival Honours Award. All this at the age of 60 and 61! Well done, Willy.

B.L.D.S.A.

WATERLOO LAKE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS. 1977.

Each year the pattern of my reports seems to follow the same lines it's becoming a problem finding something original to say. But then each year the story of Waterloo Lake seems to be the same it just would not be possible to hold the swim, were it not for the assistance unstintingly offered and willingly carried out, by the many people who turn up at the event.

Again this year the story is the same. The weather was kind, Leeds City Council did us proud with their offer of the Lake, the Park Authorities and in particular the lakeside staffwere as helpfull as they could be, it wes'nt the largest entry but sufficient to make a good swim. So all the ingredients were there,or so I thought; until I suddenly realised, I have'nt organised any starters, or timekeepers, or judges, or people to man the boats, and so I'm ringing round at the last minute,or writing letters and putting first class stamps on in the hope they will get there a bit quicker. And then in the true stage tradition of " I'll be alright on the night" when the day arrived it was " Alright". Would it be too corny to say " Cometh the day, cometh the people". And so the fact that Waterloo Lake 1977 could be called a success was due to everyone who turned up and helped, and of course to the people with the leading role in the show, the swimmers, who turned up and put on a splendid swim.

I have bit of a " thing " about giving Pilot Life Savers a larger slice of the credits than they are usually accorded. and so to this end I tried to obtain a list of all the people who went in a boat, with a view to publishing this list in this report, but there were so many people who offered to do other ancillary jobs such as make the Bovril etc, that it would not be fair to single out any person or group of persons. So, if you was at Waterloo Lake and contributed in any way to the swim may I say to you, Very Many Thanks, and I hope you enjoyed yourself.

So now to the swim. Even before the start there were two items worthy of mention. In the girls Championship we had for the first time a pair of twins, in Caroline and Karen Simister, (note, I have put these in alphabetical order ???) and in the boys event we had a young fellow who had taken his training for this event to the ultimate with a speedy Channel crossing. First time we have had a Channel swimmer in this swim.

As I said, not a large entry, we always seem to balance out very well in this event with roughly the same number in each Championship. No exception this year with nine entries for each race, however unfortunately on the day we had two non-starters in the girls event. So right on time, with muffled shrieks and gilish oaths the seven of them took to the water, and on Lewis Craven's signal, away they went, to be followed two minutes later by the boys.

Having got them away it now became a waiting game hoping they would be alright. Its a fairly safe swim with the bank closely adjacent for most of the time, but I had stressed both on the programme and at the breifing, " please no unnecessary risks" and so at this point may I thank Janet Waites from Middlesboro, and Duncan Crossland from Rotherham, for needing by request and retiring with honour before they [illegible] touched. Hope to see you both next year when you can't be another [illegible].

I can't see how having won the event the previous year can be any sort of advantage, perhaps it was that the previous winners having cleaned the trophies did'nt want to think they had done it for someone else to take them home, and so in the girls event it was last years winner Claire Allman who touched first, closely followed by the twins Karen and Caroline, (note, not in alphabetical order this time) only 1½ mins between first two. However in the boys race Mike Davis the reigning champion was so keen to ensure that he would take the trophy back to Wales that he built up an 8min lead over Phillip Reed also from Wales with David Morgan only 3 secs behind.

This year for the first time, the previous records were not broken. But then I suppose thats not very important since it was their own records they were'nt breaking. And so the results.

	GIRLS.				BOYS		
1.	Claire Allman	Northwich.	49. 10.	Mike Davis	Llandarcy.	43. 28.	
2.	Karen Simister	Bolton.	50. 47.	Phillip Reed	Port Talbot.	51. 32.	
3.	Caroline Simister	Bolton.	56. 56.	David Morgan	Scarborough	51. 33.	
4.	Lesley Read	Wimbledon.	64. 19.	Andrew Keetley	Rotherham	54. 33.	
5.	Allison Hawkins	Huddersfield	64. 43.	Mark Bird	Port Talbot.	59. 32.	
6.	Karen Hawkins	Huddersfield	69. 51.	Graham Hinchliffe	Huddersfield.	93. 41.	
	Retired Janet Waites Middlesboro.			7. Richard Flinton	Scarborough.	99. 35.	
				8. Alan Robinson	Doncaster.	100. 00.	
				Retired Duncan Crossland	Rotherham.		

YE AMPHIBIOUS ANCIENTS BATHING ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year from all at Ye AABA, Broughty Ferry, we hope that 1978 brings a season of success to all BLDSA members, swimmers and officials alike.

For us, 1977 was a good year in many respects with Mary Yeats and Hamish Winter both representing the BLDSA in Holland, Bruce Beckett's fine win at Windermere was enhanced by Ian Reid and Hamish Winter taking 3rd and 4th places respectively. Phyllis Sullivan was the 6th lady home. In the Morecambe Boy Championship, we were again successful with Hamish Winter taking 1st place and Ian Reid finishing 2nd.

The ILDSA held the Lough Neagh swim, but because of bad conditions the course was shortened. A number of the "Phibbies" competed and took the following places. Bruce Beckett 1st and Ian Reid 2nd. Unfortunately Phyllis Sullivan had to retire from the race.
It was hard lines for Ian Reid who although well into the lead on the 2 way Windermere Championship, had to retire with stomach cramp, better luck next year Ian.

Congratulations to Ron and Carol Macdonald on the arrival of Scott Andrew who weighed in at 6lb 14ozs on 12 October, 1977. At the age of 6 weeks he became the Phibbies youngest active member by taking his first "dook" in the baths. We may hear more of this young man in the future.

On the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July, 1977, the sound of laughter from a crowd of 10,000 was to be heard all over Broughty Ferry. The reason, the "Raft Race". The weather was ideal for all with the sun literally cracking the pavement. The race, which consisted of 14 homemade rafts of all shapes and sizes, was over a 2 mile course from Monifieth to Broughty Ferry. Rafts varied from oil drums with a couple of planks to the Phibbies entry, a 26' galleon made of oil drums and planks, decorated with numerous pairs of frillies (the donor wishes to remain anonymous) and fully equipped with its own "bog", seated upon which was the coxwain wearing a bowler hat, a T shirt bearing the inscription "First Loo Tenant". Although this is a fun race, it becomes quite a serious thing when the first prize is a 40 oz bottle of whisky for each member of the winning crew. 2nd place earns ordinary bottles and 3rd place ½ bottles. Every entrant gets a miniature. As you may well have guessed, the Raft Race is sponsored by Dewars. After a great battle, ending in the harbour, Aberfeldy won and the Phibbies Ferry Boat Men were second.

The day prior to this had also been fun. The weather once again had been exceptionally kind to us and the harbour was alive with activity, this was our Gala Day. There were numerous events; the greasy pole, [illegible] swimming [illegible] refreshment stalls.

YE A.A.B.A. REPORT CONTINUED OVERLEAF:-

LAST MINUTE PAGE FILLING INFORMATION RE OVERSEAS SWIMS:-

1st July.SLUIS, HOLLAND 3 kms.
2nd July.SLUIS, HOLLAND 16 kms. (We have had a specific invitation from these people, welcoming BLDSA entries and suggesting the longer swim would be a good "warm-up" for our Windermere International swimmers, as some of the Belgium and Dutch entries to the International are certain to be swimming.)
2nd July. Blankenberge, BELGIUM 3 kms.
13th August. Damme-Brugge, BELGIUM 4½ kms.

ALL the above events are for FREESTYLE AND BREAST STROKE, MEN AND WOMEN.

Dates likely to be confirmed - 20th August, River Ebro, Spain, 15 kms.

Also awaiting details from Czechoslovakia.

Mrs. Val. Parsons.

BLDSA Invergowrie - Broughty Ferry Swim 7 ml. (10th)

This was one swim where we learnt the lesson of fixing the date far too early in the year, we'll not make that mistake again. The swim was held on Saturday, 11th June, with a 12 noon start. Water temperature 50°F, wind N.E. force 5.
Although conditions were far from ideal, four men actually finished the course, others who had had to retire during the race had certainly given of their best, these included the only lady entrant, Fiona Wallace, and our President, Gus Smith, who appears to be making a comeback.

It was quite a race with Hamish Winter and Bruce Beckett swimming stroke for stroke most of the way, it was only at the finish that Bruce managed to get the edge on Hamish.

Results

1st	Bruce Beckett	1hr. 59 mins.	00 secs.
2nd	Hamish Winter	2hrs. 00 mins.	05 secs.
3rd	Ian Reid	2hrs. 25 mins.	00 secs.
4th	Harry Tosh	2hrs. 35 mins.	00 secs.

No ladies completed the course.
This swim is now almost a club affair with no English entries at all, so where are you!!

Double Tay Swim - 2 miles

The swim was held as usual the day after Invergowrie, but unlike the previous day, swimming conditions were perfect. The start was at 7 pm, water temperature 55°F wind N.E. force 1 - 2. This swim is open to all clubs affiliated to the SASA (Midlands) and was well attended.

Results

Men

1st	Bruce Beckett	42 mins.	09.5 secs.
2nd	Hamish Winter	47 mins.	05.4 secs.
3rd	Arnold Mahood	49 mins.	40.0 secs.
4th	Robert Welch	59 mins.	06.0 secs.
5th	Harry Tosh	1 hr. 01 mins.	58.0 secs.
6th	Gareth Archer	1 hr. 03 mins.	28.0 secs.
7th	Dr. Michael Harris	1 hr. 05 mins.	23.0 secs.
8th	Kevin McIntosh	1 hr. 55 mins.	24.0 secs.

Ladies

1st	Mary Yeats	51 mins.	05.0 secs.
2nd	Lynn Dempsey	1 hr. 22 mins.	02.0 secs.
3rd	Phyllis Sullivan	1 hr. 30 mins.	06.0 secs.
4th	Fiona Masson	1 hr. 59 mins.	58.0 secs.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF:-

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....TEL. NO.....

I enclose £1 (Junior under 16) £2 (Senior) £2 (Club Affiliation)
£30 (Life Membership)

Date..... Signature.....

To:- Mrs Marguerite Pike, 25, Melrose Close, St. John's, Worcester. (0905 424427)

NOTE. INFORMATION BULLETIN AND ANNUAL REPORTS ARE ONLY SENT TO CURRENTLY PAID UP MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE RECORDED BY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

(6th) Loch Earn Open Championship - 6⅛ miles

The swim was held on Sunday, 17th July, at 9 am, the course being from St. Fillans to Lochearnhead. Water temperature 60° F, wind S.E. to E. force 2 - 3.
Once again, this swim turned out to be almost a club affair with the only English entrant being Stephen Bedford from Warrington.

Results

Men

1st Bruce Beckett	2 hrs.	25 mins.	25.5 secs.
2nd Hamish Winter	2 hrs.	27 mins.	04.0 secs.
3rd Robert Welch	2 hrs.	55 mins.	05.0 secs.
4th Harry Tosh	3 hrs.	11 mins.	00.0 secs.
5th Eddie Cleary	3 hrs.	57 mins.	00.0 secs.
6th Stephen Bedford	4 hrs.	10 mins.	55.0 secs.
7th Kevin McIntosh	4 hrs.	42 mins.	35.0 secs.

Ladies

1st Phyllis Sullivan	3 hrs.	51 mins.	22.0 secs.

The Club Championship was held on Friday, 26th August, at 8.00 pm. This one mile dash from Tayport to Broughty Ferry was won by Ian Reid in a time of 22 mins. 49.50 secs. The first lady home was Lynn Dempsey in a time of 37 mins. 46.00 secs.

On 27th August, we held our annual "Old Crocks" race which was won by Bob Welch in the quite respectable time of 24 mins. 38 secs.

1978 was welcomed, as by tradition since 1884, with 9 hardy members taking their annual "dook" - Brrrrrr.

Mrs. Carol McDonald.
135, Fisher Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD52BX (Tel. 0382737370)

ATHLETES CLINIC / SPORTS INJURIES ETC.

One of our most recently joined and successful members, keep fit enthusiast John Carter, contacted me late last year and I asked him to let me know how things worked out for him, particularly with reference to the Sports Clinic treatment at London. There is a Sports Injuries Department at Leeds, amongst the staff - Valerie Steele, ex International Junior sprinter, but has recorded a 2.15 for 5 miles. So far as I am aware none of our members has visited the Leeds Department, I hope they will never have cause to, but..... a contact can often be useful. However, John reports now:-

"SPRAINED ADDUCTOR MUSCLES. Where are the adductor muscles you might well ask, I had never heard of them before. They are located, in my case, in the thigh with pain caused up to the groin as I learnt later. Looking back, it all started at the early part of last year on one of my land distance walks, during an afternoon climb through loose scree to High Stile, 2644' above Buttermere with a heavy pack on my back partially losing my balance. This was to dog me repeatedly during my swimming training, gradually getting worse, not helped in any way with the shallow screw kick breast stroke I was developing. Finally culminating in my slow time at Bala and me early retirement a week later at Windermere. The cold doesn't seem to help although it partially numbs it at the time. "Keep walking" they cry as you get out, and all you want to do is blissfully rest. Thank you again Arthur Ayres for helping me in the showers. However, the interesting point with all this was my acceptance as an out-patient at the Middlesex Hospital Athletes Clinic in London. This was via my G.P. who had never heard of them and had already suggested that I pack in this masochistic sport. Undaunted I approached the Sister in Charge of our first aid department at the Brewery, who partially relieved the pain through heat ray lamp treatment. Then a visit to our Company Doctor who arranged for my acceptance as long as I was a member of a sports organisation. My next contact was with John Slater who wrote me a very helpful covering letter from the B.L.D.S.A. The treatment comprised 16 visits, spread over 8 weeks, of shortwave and Ultra sound with exercises, carried out by very capable and attractive Physiotherapists. I was to be their first swimmer, they mainly dealt with rugby and football players and private patients. I was reminded, being 47, that the older you are, the longer the treatment would be. Again, thank you John and to the physios at the clinic. I am repaired and re-built ready for the next season, I hope ! I think from now on I will keep to the crawl stroke. "

(NOTE from JKS - "repaired and re-built" shades of bionic man. Nothing in the rules against it... ? "shall not use any aids to swimming other than..." ?

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.

On April the 8th this year my position as President of our Association will end, and the honour and the duties will be taken over by a stalwart of the Association Mr. Geoffrey Oddie, of Morley, and I do wish him the very best of luck in everything, and I am sure that he will make an excellent President.

In my year of office I have met some very fine people who have made my duties most enjoyable. Our own members, the Secretaries of the various Championships have worked very hard to make my year a memorable one and smooth the Presidential path. I do thank you all most sincerely.

To the members of the hard working, much travelled Executive for all their help both in front and behind the table, I owe them my gratitude, their devotion to long distance swimming is amazing and infectious.

I would also like to thank the Presidents of the various Associations and Clubs who have invited my wife Lucie and myself to their Championships and Dinners and other social activities.....I sincerely enjoyed them all, and carry away from my year of office many happy memories.

To the other Associations and Clubs, whose Championships or social functions I could not visit, I do apologise, the programme in our short season is so full and dates inevitably clash so that it was impossible to visit you all, but I do thank you for your invitations.

During my term as President I have seen some magnificent efforts in the various Championships and it made me feel very proud of our Association and its members. To present certificates and trophies to the winners and those who have completed a swim is always a pleasure, but I found it a greater challenge to encourage those who did not complete the course to come again - with more training and determination and succeed.

Yours very sincerely,

John O'Hara.

President.

JAS.